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ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

SERIAL NO. 103

17 Apr 43

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 60, [REDACTED]

Including Information published in
Interrogation Spot Report SERIAL 65.

1. Attached is a Report on information gained from Japanese PW, [REDACTED].
2. All information contained in this report is extracted from this PW source only. Its value should be assessed and its distribution restricted accordingly.

Unclassified
 dated *April 1943*
 effecting change
 Initials of MID officer

B. J. Meredith
 B.C.V. MEREDITH,
 Major,
 C.O. Army Unit.

APPROVED:

[Signature]
 SIDNEY T. MASHBIR,
 Colonel, S.C.,
 Co-ordinator.

FWC/J&C/RW

No. 21

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Incl No 2

19-65

PW's Name: [REDACTED]

Rank: Superior Private

Unit: AKATSUKI 2503 - 8 Shipping Engr Regt
3 Coy
1 Pl
3 Sec

Where Captured: Off TROBRIANDS

By Whom Captured: By USN Patrol Vessel

How Captured: Rescued from sea.

When Captured: 8 Mar '43.

Height: 5' 4"

Weight: 115 lbs

Age: 37

Private Address: [REDACTED]

Education: 6 years SHOGAKKO (Primary School)

Civil Occupation: Employed for 9 years by a colour type company,
followed by 10 years as a taxi and truck driver.

1. PREAMBLE

PW regretted he lied in the forward area, by saying he was on board TEIYO MARU. He has since talked very frankly and though he did not seem to know very much, his disclosures were made in a convincing manner.

2. CHRONOLOGY

Personal History After graduating from Primary School in 1920, PW joined a colour type printing Coy and worked there till 1927 when he was called up for military examination at KYOTO. He was classed as B1 and assigned to DAI ICHI HOJU (1st Replacement Reserve). In 1929, as there was no future in printing, he joined a relative who had a trucking business. He drove trucks for him till 1934, when he became a taxi driver. Later he reverted to truck driving.

Pre SWPA

Jul '41 PW called up and reported to 16 Engr Regt at KYOTO, Replacement Reserves including PW, posted to 23 Ind Engr Regt stationed at SUISHOKU, KOREA (See sec. 17)

Early
Aug '41 Arrived SUISHOKU.

Oct '41 Left SUISHOKU for FUSAN. In barracks.

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12. ENEMY SUPPLIES

MANCHUKUO

Petrol Petrol for trucks used by 23 Ind Engr Regt was obtained from various dumps. If there was a likelihood of being stationed away from a petrol dump each Coy would take along 10 drums (500 U.S. Gals).

R. BAUL

Rations Each man in PW's Regt was given 3 small bags of biscuits, 9 GO of rice, 1 bag of powdered MISO (bean paste) and salt and 2 tins of canned meat, but, as meals were cooked by each section daily these rations were not supposed to be touched.

13. MORALE AND PROPAGANDA

MORALE

Economic Conditions in Japan PW last heard from his wife during Apr '42 when he was in MANILA. She advised him of the birth of a son. He had last written home when he was in MANCHUKUO (about Oct '42) although when he was in UJINA in Dec '42 he had sent home ¥15 to his children. PW does not wish to write home now. He received one comfort bag when leaving UJINA. It contained NCRI (dried seaweed), a miniature game of Jap chess and bamboo puzzles. He said he would have appreciated the gift better if it had contained soap, toothpaste and such like articles.

PW did not think there was a war boom in JAPAN; in fact, he said that many businesses had been adversely affected. All food and clothing, besides many other articles were rationed. There was not enough for everyone but the Japanese people managed to "scrape along" somehow.

Political Conditions in JAPAN PW had a Primary School education. His father died shortly after he was born and he did not know to what political party he belonged. PW thought that war was not a good thing but that there would always be wars. He could not say whether TOJO was carrying out the Emperor's wishes. The war against the United Nations was inevitable because JAPAN would have to defeat the nations helping CHINA, in order to induce her to surrender.

PW was in KYOTO 15 years ago when communism was popular in JAPAN and he was also there at the time of the 26 Feb '36 incident. He could express no opinion on communism and could not recollect much about the 26 Feb '36 incident.

PW was in KYOTO at the time of MANCHUKUO incident and when the CHINA war broke out. He had thought that the CHINA War would last no longer than 6 months to a year.

PW said that he was ashamed at his lack of knowledge of the CHINA-JAP war 1894/95. The present CHINA War was lasting such a long time because CHINA was receiving assistance from other countries.

Conditions in the Fighting Services PW had no idea of the number of men mobilized by JAPAN in the past 5 years. Only one relative had seen active service and he had been invalided back to JAPAN and was now well. He could not say how his school mates had fared. He had never been wounded but had suffered from malaria as had most of his comrades.

Brothels in field operational areas were started and controlled by the Army. He could give no details of the women employed in brothels at R. BAUL. He had heard of 2 cases of venereal disease in the Army but such cases were uncommon.

Attitude to Allied Nations PW had forgotten the reason for the Anti-English movement. PW did not know of Chinese dislike of the Japanese. JAPAN should and fact was treating the natives of occupied