

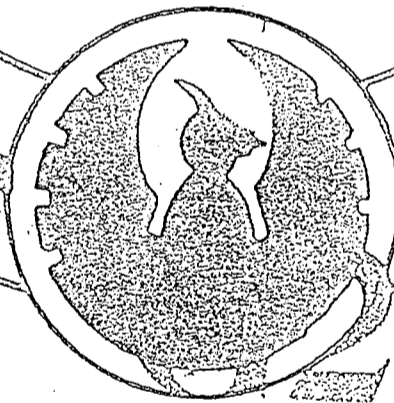
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Order of Battle

SWPA

*G. F. Blunda*

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COLONEL, CAC, U. S. ARMY

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S. E. A. T. I. C.

SOUTH - EAST ASIA TRANSLATION AND INTERROGATION CENTER

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BULLETIN NO. 116

The information contained in this Bulletin is obtained by interrogation of Japanese PW's, which is based on questionnaires prepared by Morale Analysis Section, OWI, Washington. The number denoting the informant is the PW reference number allotted at SEATIC. A record of the original material on which the Bulletin is based is kept for reference, and any inquiries should state the number and paragraph, and be addressed to the Superintendent, S.E.A.T.I.C., Rear HQ, S.E.A.C. Although every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this Bulletin should be treated with reserve until confirmed from other sources.

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Note: Identifications given in brackets by Translator in this Bulletin, e.g. YEMI 6223 (213 Inf Regt - Tr), are taken from "Detailed Order of Battle of the Japanese Armed Forces in Burma" prepared by GSI(a) ALPSEA.

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## PART II

1. BACKGROUND(a) Personal History

WD-342, a Japanese Sergeant, is 29 years old. His home is near KYOTO where he was employed as a silk technician. He is married and has one small daughter. He graduated from Middle School and had three years of training in a silk technical school. He was in 128 Regt, 53 Div, on the North Burma front; this division, the 18 Div, had suffered a series of crushing defeats. He was captured on 8 August 1944.

(b) Details of Capture

When his unit was ordered to withdraw from SAHMAW, South of MOGAUNG on the MANDALAY-MYITKYINA Railway, WD-342 was in a weakened condition from inadequate diet, malaria, and swollen feet. He, therefore, was able to walk only about 8 kilometers with his unit, and on August 8 was straggling behind the retreating Japanese troops when he fell over exhausted on the wayside, and went to sleep. He was captured while sleeping near NAMPADAUNG, South East of SAHMAW. He was unarmed except for his hand grenade which was "wet".

(c) Interrogator's Evaluation

PW is average in intelligence and very cooperative.

2. CONTACT WITH PROPAGANDA AND REACTIONS THERETO(a) Japanese News and Propaganda

PW's company had free movies twice a month. These films related to battles elsewhere or were educational films such as "how to improve rice crops".

About 150 civilians were on the same boat with PW between Japan and SAIGON. These were all Japanese and were civilian personnel engaged in propaganda work. Their average age was "around 32 years", and the group included newspaper men, college graduates, teachers, etc. While on board ship they practised and spoke Malay, Annamite and Burmese. WD-342 thought that they received about 200 monthly plus board and room. About 50 of them remained in French Indo-China and the others he believes proceeded to SINGAPORE, SUMATRA, etc. While in SAIGON and vicinity (10 February to 29 March), his unit received a Japanese Army newspaper, Kachi Deki, about every three days. It was of regular size and the characters were in type, perhaps printed by a gelatin process in Indo-China or Siam. It included home news chiefly, as well as some war news.

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on guard duty in Manchuria.

(h) Attitude Toward Capture

Lifelong indoctrination prevented PW from seriously entertaining the thought of surrender. The belief that Japan never lost a war appears greatly to have contributed to the PW's high morale. By the time he was captured, however, the defeats suffered by his division, the constant sight of friends being blown to bits and his own weakened malarious condition, caused him to become confused. It did not cause him to wish to surrender, however. PW hopes to go back to Japan and see his wife and small child. His wife is far too obedient to think of ostracizing him, although many of his friends would have nothing to do with him, as a former PW. He was in North China during the NOMONHAN incident between Russia and Japan. His unit was mobilized but was not sent to the fighting before the armistice. He believes that several Japanese were captured and after the armistice they were returned to their respective units in Manchuria. Once they returned to Japan they were treated as heroes; there was no record that they had been prisoners and the Army itself helped hide this fact.

4. EXPERIENCES WHICH AFFECTED MORALE(a) Health and Medical Services

Medical supplies had been exhausted some time before PW's capture. In one retreat farther North, thirty men were left behind with wounds, malaria, athlete's foot, etc. and asked to commit suicide. The wounded and sick were evacuated from SAHMAW. One man who returned to SAHMAW from the hospital at HOPIN, said that the hospital was so full that two men were assigned to each bed. Medical orderlies and doctors were very few, food was scarce and sanitary conditions extremely bad.

(b) Food Supplies and Equipment

Troops in North China were well supplied with sweets and cigarettes. Amenities were not readily available in Burma, however.

Ever since the first battalion went up to the hills South West of MOGAUNG and North West of SAHMAW, the food situation had been bad for lack of proper transport. Even matches were very short, although this was mitigated by the almost complete lack of cigarettes, cheroots, etc. Dogs were snatched from KACHIN villages and eaten. By the time they left the hills, they were so weak that they hardly had strength to bury their dead. When they retreated to SAHMAW, they continued a diet of dogs varied by the slaughter of five or six horses. PW said that as they grew hungrier and hungrier

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they thought enviously of the enemy soldiers and their food and supplies.

PW had realized sometime before capture that the Japanese line of communication was deficient and, therefore, ammunition and weapons were scarce. Enemy bombing did not cause as many Japanese casualties as strafing, but it had a greater psychological effect.

(c) Amenities

Nearly all camps along the railway line had comfort stations ordinarily staffed by Koreans and Chinese. In Mandalay, it was also possible to buy beer, 'Sake' cigarettes; and other luxuries.

(d) Army Life

Soldiers from the large cities did not get along with soldiers from KYUSHU. (It should be noted that PWs from 18 Div came chiefly from KYUSHU and spoke disparagingly of the men from OSAKA and other cities, who fought in 53 Div). There were many 'ETAS' in the Army who are rather looked down upon by the ordinary Japanese. The 'ETA' appears to be chiefly a Japanese-Korean mixture. The 'OKINAWA' were also looked down upon but were rated more highly than were the 'ETAS'.

The chief complaints of the troops in PW's regiment were about lack of food and supplies, and they hated the monsoon, for it rained every day in the hills and the pup tents started to leak so that they had to put banana leaves over them to keep out the water. "You should have seen us then - we were wet and shivering. Under such conditions I thought we were in a losing battle" (MAKE YUKUSA).

PART III

The aim of this continuing survey is to gather and present in statistical form, information on morale, attitudes, states of mind and the conditions affecting these, from all Japanese PWs who pass through Delhi.

This report covers interrogations of the second fifty PWs made available to the full time interrogator supplied by SEATIC and supervised by OWI. It is impossible at this stage to judge whether these men are typical of the Japanese Army in Burma, hence the results must be treated with reserve.

The interrogator had a mimeographed questionnaire with space to check the various facts. He was instructed to engage the PWs in conversation, make the checks and comments as information came out naturally, or else wait until the interview to record the facts, in order to encourage free and frank testimony. Completed questionnaires are the subject of careful discussion and check between the interrogator and members of the OWI staff.

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