

PW stated that he did not like fighting and in his opinion JAPAN would have been better off if she had not entered the war. He said many of his friends held similar views, but they had to do what they were told. He did not know what the Officers thought.

PW was not a member of any political party. He was only a farm labourer and too young to take part in political activities for which one must be 25 or over. He did not know his father's political inclinations. He had no idea how far JAPAN meant to go on with the war.

PW stated that the general opinion in JAPAN when the war began, was that the CHINA War would be a short one. Now there is general disgust at its length and PW himself had no idea when it would end. He thought that JAPAN should have been satisfied with what she gained in MANCHUKUO and NORTH CHINA and should not have attacked SOUTH CHINA. He thought the men instrumental in bringing about the CHINA War and later on the Pacific War were TOJO and TERAUCHI. The KONOUE cabinet did not favour it. He thought the war was a mistake.

PW did not know what assistance JAPAN was receiving from the AXIS powers and he had not seen anything tangible.

PW thought the change in Anglo/Japanese relations was due not so much to the assistance England was giving CHINA via the Burma Road, which was mostly newspaper propaganda, but to the commercial rivalry existing between the two countries.

PW had not given any thought to the fact that American production of arms was far superior to JAPAN's, but insisted that no Japanese could entertain the idea that they might lose the war.

PW stated that Chinese soldiers were much better fighters now than formerly, but they were not as strong as the soldiers he had opposed in NEW GUINEA.

PW was uncertain as to his movements after the war was over. He stated that if he returned to JAPAN he was afraid he would be killed. Jap PW captured in CHINA in 1932, on returning to JAPAN were all killed and he supposed the same treatment would be meted out to PW returning from this war. PW stated definitely that PW taken by the Japanese were not killed, but that if some had been it was due to the circumstances and to the C.O. All PW taken by the Japanese in the BURMA Area had been sent to SINGAPORE though he himself had not seen any Australian or American captives.

While training at TONKIN troops were told by Lt. BABA of MOTO Butai that if they were taken prisoner they would be either shot or bayoneted to death by the enemy.

In place of a pension a lumpsum of money, the amount depending on length of service, was now granted to relatives of a Jap posted "missing". If later it was discovered that he was a PW this would not affect his family from a monetary point of view, provided the grant had already been paid.

PW stated that when a Jap became a soldier it was tantamount to throwing his life away. Life was precious but he could not help himself as he was ordered to fight and destroy and rather than become a prisoner, he should destroy himself.

Jap troops were told that PW were either ill-treated or shot, but this he now knew was not true for he had been very well treated.

PW had no idea how many soldiers there were in JAPAN, but thought that about 6 million were under arms.

Natives of occupied territories were treated kindly and well, but it was not so in CHINA, for the Japanese had ingrained in them that the Chinese were an inferior race and they were so treated.

To a question as to whether or not the Emperor approved of the present war, PW replied that as he had approved to TOJO being Premier, he supposed that the Emperor supported TOJO's actions. PW was reluctant to answer questions regarding the Emperor.

PW stated that there was an official Army brothel in BELITAN in which two native women from NARUMORUDA and six Chinese women served. Great precautions were taken against VD.