

10-1R-52

CONFIDENTIAL - BRITISH SECRET

ALLIED TRANSPORT AND INTERPRETER SECTION
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

SERIAL NO. 93
13/Jan/43

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 52

Including information published in
Interrogation Spot Report SERIAL 20 & 29

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

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

APPROVED:

Sirrey F. Masbir
SIRREY F. MASBIR
Colonel, S.C.
Co-ordinator

F7C/JMC/NR
No. 29

DISTRIBUTION

CO-ORDINATOR ATIS SWPA	1
AD CHQ SWPA	13
COMDR SEVENTH FLEET	18
ADV LHQ SWPA	33
AF HQ SWPA	20
US MIL ATTACHE	1
OCE CHQ SWPA	1
OC USAFISPA	3
ADV ECH ATIS	1
ATIS SWPA	13
NEFIS	1

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 52

PN's Name: [redacted]
 Rank: Leading Private
 Unit: YAMAGATA Ind. Mixed Bde
 170 Inf Regt
 1 Bn.
 15 Coy
 Where Captured: CIRUMA
 By Whom Captured: American troops
 How Captured: Surprised by American tps in hospital at CIRUMA
 When Captured: 15 Jun 43
 Height: 4'10"
 Weight: 116 lbs
 Age: 26
 Private Address: [redacted]
 Education: 10 years
 Civil Occupation: Filter and Turner

1. PREAMBLES

PN appeared, by his military bearing, to be a well trained soldier. Although no information was volunteered, questions truthfully answered apparently to the best of his knowledge. PN had no idea of times and dates, and considered to be an average observer.

2. CHRONOLOGY

Personal History. Born and educated at AMAGASAKI. 1934 entered employ of KANSAI SPINDLE SPINNING CO. at OSABA, machining shell blanks. Conscripted 5 years later at age 21.

Pre-SWPA

- 1 May 39. PN conscripted at SASAYAMA and joined 70 Regt.
- 7 Aug 39. PN posted to 170 Regt and left OSABA for CANTON with replacements for that Regt in an unknown ship of 6000 tons which was escorted occasionally at night by a destroyer.
- 17 Aug 39. Arrived CANTON and did garrison duty for 3 months.
- Nov 39. Marched to YING TUCK on CANTON-HANKOW railway, 250 miles north of CANTON (See Sec 4).
- Jan 40. Returned to North Front Line of CANTON Defences (See Sec 4).
- Jun 41. Left CANTON for HAIPHONG, French Ind-China where PN did guard duty and harbour patrols.
- 28 Sep 42. YAMAGATA Bde, in which was 170 Regt, left HAIPHONG by train for SAIPON (See Sec 5).

Conditions in Fighting Services. PW's cousin was in 70 Regt. and as far as PW knew was well. Some of PW's school mates have been killed in CHINA. PW had never been wounded, although he had suffered from Malaria and Beri-Beri in NEW GUINEA, as had many of his comrades.

Beer and tobacco had been available to troops in the Regimental Canteen at RABAU. The tobacco had been brought by the Regiment from FRENCH INDO-CHINA where it was manufactured by the "Black Horse" and "KOTCHA" Coys.

Brothels were provided by the Army in FRENCH INDO-CHINA (Japanese women); CHINA (Japanese and Chinese women) and RABAU (nationality of inmates unknown).

Attitude to Allied nations The Anti-English movement was necessary because of the good opinion held in JAPAN of Englishmen. The Chinese had always disliked the Japanese, but PW was unable to give a reason. PW believed that JAPAN should not treat the natives of occupied territory as equals. He could not say whether the Rescript of Emperor MEIJI had been followed. He had never seen white men doing coolie work although he had seen photographs in magazines of white P's W, in the ZENTSUJI area, reading "after working".

Attitude to Axis Nations PW thought that JAPAN was getting no assistance from Germany. He did not accept the idea of German race superiority, but stated that various countries were entitled to their own opinions. Emperor worship of Hitler was a matter for the Germans.

PROPAGANDA
Radio & Newspapers PW listened to the Radio in FRENCH INDO-CHINA. Stations other than Jap ones, could be heard but PW could not understand the language. PW realized that losses were minimized over the air and in the papers but the people, not having seen the actual events, had to believe what they were told. For instance, they would not be told of the BISMARCK SEA convoy from RABAU to NEW GUINEA being turned back.

Leaflets PW had never seen a propaganda leaflet, although he had heard of members of the NANKAI SHITAI who had seen them.

14. ENEMY INTENTIONS

PW heard when in RABAU (Dec '42) that more than 20 ships were on the way to RABAU from PALAU, bringing the 17th Army which was to take over the NEW GUINEA area. The 18th Army was then to confine its operations to the SOLOMONS. HQ of the 17th Army had already arrived in RABAU.

16. CHEMICAL WARFARE

Respirators PW received instruction in adjustment of respirators and gas chamber tests. When training, an inferior respirator was issued. These were replaced by new ones before troops left JAPAN for operations. Respirators had been left by his Unit in RABAU.

PW was shown photographs of four types of respirator. He thought two were naval types and he identified the other two as T 89 and T 95.

T 89 had a long canister and was effective for 100 hours. (PW did not know particulars of gas concentration).

T 95 was lighter and easier to breathe through than T 89 and its canister was about one third shorter. T 95 outfit had been issued to some in PW's unit but not to PW. It was preferred to T 89 by troops required to work in them.

T 99 respirator was stated to be in existence although PW had not seen it.

Anti-Gas Clothing This was made of thick, stiff, rubberized material which made a noise when the wearer walked. The suit was

one-piece (coat and trousers) fastening down the front (about 3 inches overlap) and around the wrists with rubberized straps and buckles. Rubber gauntlets fastened at the wrists and Wellington type boots, into which the trousers were tucked, were also provided. A hood, which appeared to be detachable by the removal of a cord, completed the outfit. PW wore this AG clothing just once, in Toxic smoke while training in French Indo-China during Aug '42. The suit was very heavy (PW could not carry more than two complete suits at one time) and could only wear one for half an hour.

AG Powder PW stated that when gas warfare was anticipated a rubber pouch filled with AG powder, was carried in addition to the usual tin. The powder was applied dry and was considered suitable for any type of gas encountered.

AG suits were decontaminated by the Section's gas specialist.

Gas Indicators and Alarms Unit gas soldiers probably carry gas indicators. PW had seen indicators but could give no information about them. Gas alarms are given by word of mouth or by bugle calls. (PW could not describe the calls).

Gas Regiments PW knew of the existence of Gas Regiments; being special organisations he knew nothing of their numbers or locations.

Gas Smoke Candles PW had heard from other Jap soldiers that gas warfare was being waged by both Japs and Chinese in the Central CHINA area, where the flat country lent itself to chemical warfare. When stationed in the CHANTON area of CHINA from Aug '39 to Jan '41, he himself had participated in an action where "Type 105" GASU MATSU ENTO (Gas-smoke candle) was used. The candle consisted of a black painted metal (possibly aluminium) canister slightly larger and heavier than "Type 99" MATSU ENTO (smoke candle).

In use, the lid of the canister was unscrewed exposing a match head which, upon rubbing against a rough surface (within the top of the canister), ignited the candle. Upon ignition, the canister is immediately thrown and it discharged gas and smoke for about five minutes. The smoke emitted by the candle created a white screen. The gas emitted is a non-persistent irritant (SAI RYU GASU) which causes a burning sensation on exposed portions of the body.

In operation, a party equipped with two candles per man would move to windward side of enemy, taking up positions approximately 20 metres apart. Respirators then adjusted and a single candle ignited. Candles thrown simultaneously, attempt being to deliver them within 60 metres of the enemy. The party immediately advanced through the smoke screen to the line where the first candles had fallen and repeated the process. After the second smoke-gas line had been established, the enemy position would be attacked.

PW had observed Chinese corpses after the attack, but was unable to state whether death had been caused by gas or bullets.

PW stated that ordinary soldiers used T105 gas smoke candles only on the training ground; in actual operations their use was restricted to the unit gas soldiers. (Correction to Interrogation Spot Report 23 Serial 76).

None of PW's unit brought any smoke-gas candles to NEW GUINEA mainland. Any smoke-gas candles found in the BURIA area must have been brought by NANKAI SHITAI.

17. TOPOGRAPHY

HAIPHONG At HAIPHONG PW's Regt landed at a pier. They were quartered in houses on the outskirts of HAIPHONG. Electricity and water were available. Everything in the city appeared to be normal.

More French than Japanese ships entered and departed from the port. PW did not know what cargoes were loaded or discharged.

CHINA is zoned by Jap Military authorities as follows: