

soy sauce, but no calorific or vitamin-rich foods were seen. On embarkation emergency rations for four days and two days rice stored in a section of bamboo, three sticks of sweetened bean paste and seven small tins of boiled meat and soy sauce were carried. No "tommy cookers" or soy or miso soup was carried on the person.

Three months rations were carried by the unit.

Water PW stated that the water supply in RABAU was quite adequate for all needs. Delivery of the latter were made by trucks of the water purifying section. The officers had the same issue as the men. Wells had been dug about 30 metres from the coast line. However, this water could not be used without boiling.

13. MORALE & PROPAGANDA

MORALE

Economic Conditions in JAPAN PW had not heard from his people since he left for SWPA, but had sent several postcards. His people were all well when he left. PW said that he did not wish to write home and stated that he would never return to JAPAN voluntarily but was told that he would be shipped back just when we thought fit. He had received no comforts or war relief bags and stated that some discontent existed owing to lack of mail. PW thought that there possibly was a war boom in JAPAN but the cost of living had gone up and taxes were high. Most things were rationed by the ticket system.

Political Conditions in JAPAN PW's family had voted for the MIJISEITO Party. The Emperor certainly did not like war, which was America's fault. JAPAN was not really at war with the English and far from with the Australians. TOJO was not, in his opinion, following his own ambitions. He personally did not like war but orders had to be obeyed. Even if JAPAN had kept out of the war there would have been no prosperity, as AMERICA would have seen to that. He thought Communism was bad however one looked at it. There could be no equality where there were different types of work to be done. When Communism was popular in JAPAN he was at school. At the time of the 26 Feb '36 incident he was in HAMAMATSU and thought that it was badly advised. When the MANCHUKUO incident began he was in HAMAMATSU and was still there at the beginning of the CHINA War. He had thought at first that the latter affair would soon be over. He knew also of the short length of the CHINA/JAPAN War of 1894/5 and of the resultant casualties, and that JAPAN had obtained FORMOSA and 220 million in indemnity. As regards the present CHINA War he had no views but thought that the length of hostilities was due to the possibility of CHINA having become stronger.

Asked why JAPAN had not stopped at North CHINA and established a stable Government, PW stated that CHINA was a big country and that it would have been better to have stopped at North CHINA. He thought that there were only few ships being used in the CHINA operations. However, there ought to be a shortage of them soon.

Conditions in Fighting Services PW thought that JAPAN had mobilized 5,000,000 men in the past 5 years. Of his family and relatives only he had seen active service. Two of his schoolmates had gone on active service and both had died on their return, one from Malaria and the other from consumption.

Both had served in the CHINA incident. He himself had never been wounded.

All letters to JAPAN were prohibited but there was no restriction on postcards. All outgoing postcards were censored by unit COs. The Adjutant attending to HQ mail. No mention of climate, location or any military matters could be made and soldiers were only permitted to say that they were all well etc.

PW apparently had no vices but was able to state that he had heard that there were Naval brothels in RABAU staffed by Japanese girls from 20 to 25 years of age. These were professionals from JAPAN.

Attitude to Allied Nations He could not comment on the anti-English movement but thought that the British were still popular - the main resentment was with America. He thought that the antipathy between Chinese and Japs, was due to the fact that they were geographically so close that quarrels were bound to occur. He persisted in his statement that JAPAN was treating natives of occupied countries as equals and could not be shaken on the statement. PW also said that the Rescript of Meiji was being followed although he could not explain the killing of the American airmen in JAPAN after the raid. He had seen Australian POW in RABAU and saw that they were well fed and issued with tobacco. He stated that they were working on the wharves, unloading ships, and that they were being paid for the work.

Attitude to Axis Nations PW knew of Hitler but did not agree with the German claim to racial superiority. He felt that, on the contrary JAPAN and ENGLAND held the superior races of the world. He had no views on the German worship of Hitler. PW said that he did not know of any assistance now being furnished by GERMANY to JAPAN but said that there had been some assistance before the war.

PROPAGANDA

Radio PW had listened to the radio only in MANCHUKUO. The only news he got in RABAU was from old newspapers. He said that the troops were only told the good news on the radio. He thought there was a considerable difference between actual war and the radio version of it. He had never seen nor heard of any Allied propaganda leaflets.

16. CHEMICAL WARFARE

All troops carried a T95 respirator and one can of A.G. powder. The unit gas soldiers were equipped with a one piece rubber gas suit, rubber gloves and boots. Questioned as to whether the respirator was built into the gas clothing, he stated that it was separate and of the same T95 pattern.

All troops were issued with oiled paper (ABURA KAMI) Anti gas capes, which after use were not decontaminated but burned.

He said that these were not reinforced with any cloth and tore very easily.

17. TOPOGRAPHY

Air Watching Posts - NEW BRITAIN PW did not know that there was an aerodrome at GASEATA but said there was an Air Watching Post at a place called TSURUUEU on the Western end of NEW BRITAIN. There were other watching posts on the coast.

Roads He said there was a road under construction from RABAU to TSURUUEU along the North Coast.

Quarters PW stated that the troops in the new houses opposite the jungle at LAKUNAI drone, previously described by PW as HAJIUSUSA BUTAI, contained Jap conscript labourers, and were a naval aerodrome construction unit.

LAE PW stated that there were 2,500 troops in the LAE Area.

JOSHIKO At JOSHIKO, MANCHUKUO, 1 Coy guarded food dumps, 2 Coy an ammunition dump and 3 Coy K.I.N aerodrome. There were no planes stationed on the latter drone.