

10-IR-104

CONFIDENTIAL - BRITISH SECRET

ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION  
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 104

SERIAL NO. 175

27 Jun '43

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 104

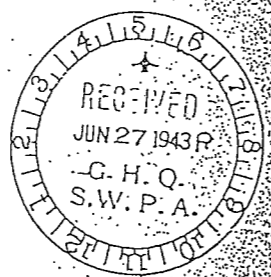
1. Attached is a Report on information gained from Japanese PW [redacted]

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.

Examiner S.  
BCJM/FNC/MK/BEH

SIDNEY WASHBURN  
Colonel, S.C.,  
Co-ordinator

DISTRIBUTION	NO. OF COPIES
AG GHQ SWPA	14
COMDR SEVENTH FLEET	16
DNI	5
ADV LHQ SWPA	34
AAF HQ SWPA	20
US MIL ATTACHE	1
CCE GHQ SWPA	1
CG USAFISPA	3
NEPIS	1
USAFFE	1
ADV ECH ATIS	1
ATIS SWPA	14



PW's Name: [redacted]  
 Rank: Sgt - Cook  
 Unit: 50 A/A Regt. OKAWA BUTAI - IO 3616  
 Where Captured: TONGKIANGS  
 By Whom Captured: Aust Patrol Boat  
 How Captured: While making for RABAU in lifeboat  
 When Captured: 21 Mar '43  
 Height: 5'5"  
 Weight: 130 lbs  
 Age: 23  
 Private Address: [redacted]  
 Education: Primary School 6 yrs, Middle School 5 yrs.  
 Civil Occupation: Clerk

1. PREAMBLE

Bright and observant. PW stated he would give all information he could as he owed his recovery from severe wounds to Allied nursing. Information imparted was intelligently given and seemed to be true.

2. CHRONOLOGY

Personal History Graduated 3 Mar '35 from NAGOYA Middle School at age of 19. PW obtained employment with TAI HEI (Great PACIFIC) Fire Insurance Co, NAGOYA, a concern which did most of its underwriting with Royal Insurance Co, LONDON.

Pre SWPA

- Aug '37 Conscripted. Medically examined, class A1.
- 10 Jan '38 Called up. Posted to KOSHWANG, DAI ICHI KENTAI HOJU TAI (Replacement TAI of 1 A/A Regt), at HAMAMATSU (see sec 4).
- 16 Jul '41 PW with approx 450 ORs FANRYA BUTAI sailed (see sec 11) from KOBE as replacements to OKAWA BUTAI in MANCHURIA.
- 18 Jul '41 Arrived FUSAN and entrained for MUTAGKIANG.
- 1 Aug '41 Trained to TOMAY.
- Dec '42 Trained to FUSAN.

Voyage Out

- Early Dec '42 Sailed from FUSAN in NIPPON MARU (see sec 11) for RABAU.
- End Dec '42 Arrived RABAU (see sec 11).

10-ZR-104

- 20 Feb '43 Prepared for embarkation.
- 28 Feb '43 Boarded OIGAWA MARU and sailed in convoy (see sec 11).
- 2 Mar '43 Convoy bombed by Allied A/C.
- 3 Mar '43 OIGAWA MARU sunk by Allied A/C (see sec 19).
- 21 Mar '43 Captured.

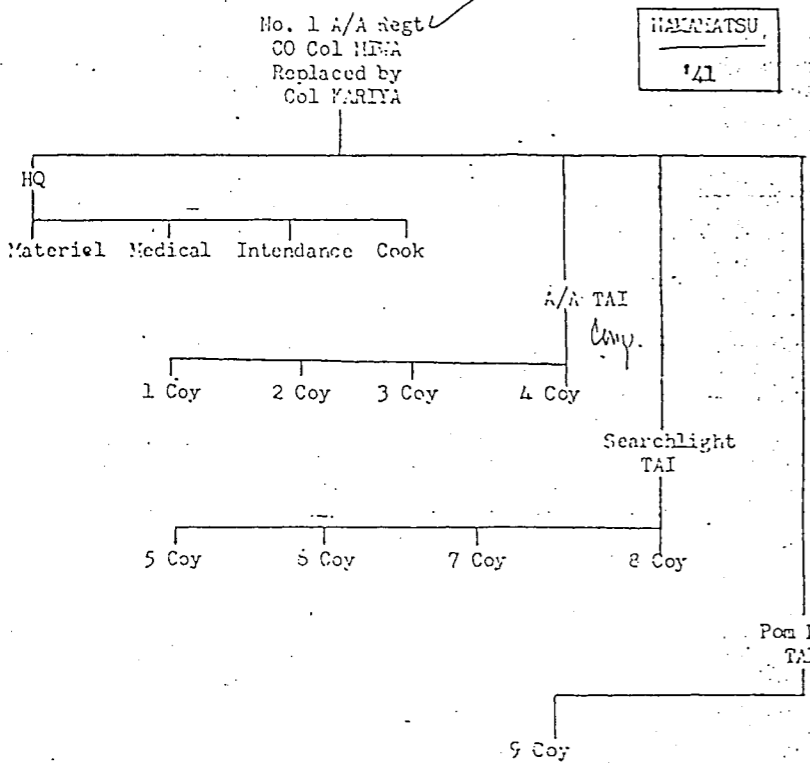
3. CAPTURE

PW received head wounds from shrapnel and was hit in both legs by Allied A/C strafing of OIGAWA MARU on 3 Mar '43. He did not regain consciousness till the following day when he found himself in a lifeboat with 12 others, two of whom were subsequently killed by A/C strafing. Under an improvised sail, they later drifted close to an island from which a native canoe put off. Revived by bananas the natives gave them, they decided to make for RABAU. The next day, however, they encountered an Aust patrol boat and were captured.

4. UNIT OR FORCE

PW's Unit KOSHANO DAI ICHI RENZAI HOUJU TAI (Replenishment TAI of 1 A/A Regt) PW posted Jan '38 to this A/A Replenishment TAI for OHARA BUTAI, at HAMAMATSU. Col MIWA was in comd but retired Jul '40 (see sec 6). Succeeded by Col KARIYA.

Organization



- Strength HQ Materiel Technical Officers, NCOs and mechanics.
- Medical MO, NCOs and medical orderlies.
- Intendance Paymaster, NCOs and ORs.
- Cookhouse In command of a Sgt-Maj. 3 NCOs and 20 ORs.

A/A TAI Coys had from 6 to 8 Officers, 2 WOs, 15 or 20 NCOs and from 100 to 150 ORs. These were divided into HAN (group) each consisting of a HAN leader, 7 Sgts, 2 Cols and about 4 Ldg Ptes.

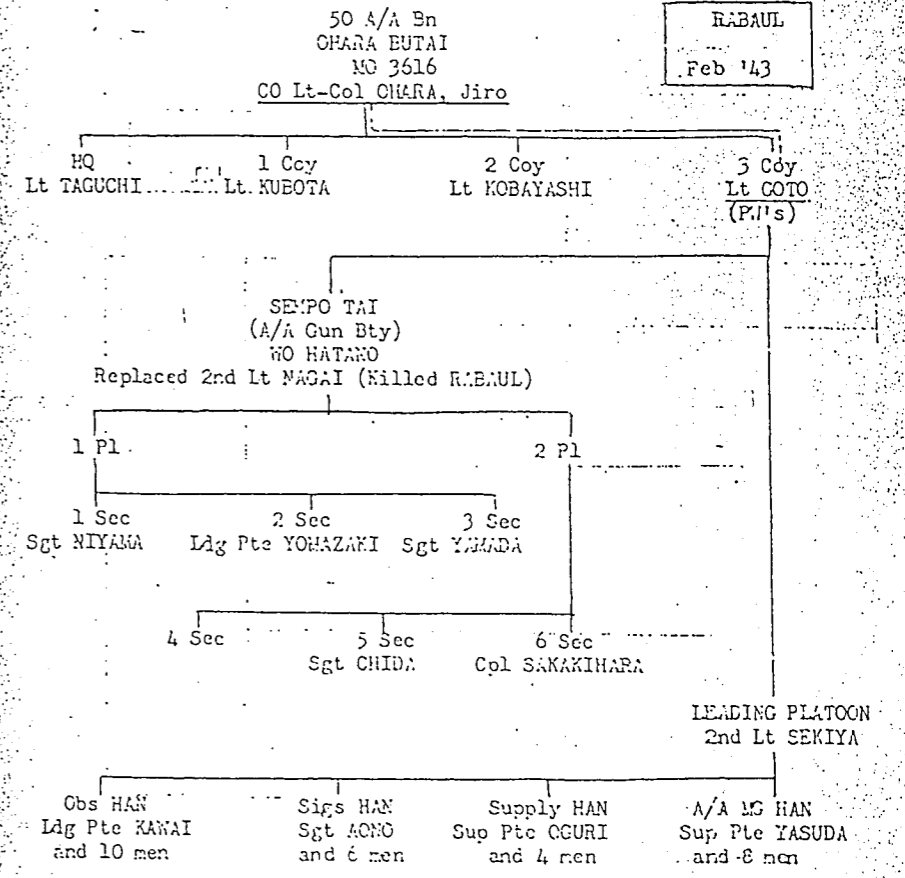
S/L TAI Each Coy had from 5 to 6 Officers, 1 WO, 15 or 20 NCOs, and about 100 or 150 ORs. There were 6 HAN (group) to a Coy and each had a complement of NCOs and ORs for S/L, RDF, Sigs and MT duties.

PCM PCM TAI 9 Coy consisted of about 4 Officers, 1 WO, 10 or 15 NCOs and from 100 to 150 ORs.

Personnel PW recollected that 1st Lt HANAGAWA was OC 4 Coy A/A TAI. 1 HAN Leader in that Coy was Sgt YAMAMOTO, and under him were Cpls KUBO and FUKUCURI.

OHARA BUTAI Jul '41. PW joined this Unit in MANCHURIA. Sailed for SWPA Dec '42 and att 51 Div.

Organization



10-IR-104

utilized but if bombed, they were left in that condition for lack of repair materials. Owing to this shortage the were mainly billeted in tents.

Food Situation in RABAU. Most foodstuffs were brought from JAPAN by frequently-arriving ships. These foodstuffs were rice, barley, canned vegetables, oranges, meat, fish (mainly mackerel, salmon or sardines), MISO (Bean paste), SHICHU (Soy Sauce), beer and SAKE (wine).

Attempts at large scale local growing were unsuccessful. The Food Supply Depot did the purchasing and distribution to the various BUTAI. In any case, the supply of local fruit was inadequate and only permitted the issue of a small quantity per week to each man. This deficiency was to some extent made up by a plentiful supply of Coconut "Meat". Strict orders were issued against stealing fruit from natives and individual purchases had to be done secretly.

In general, supplies were insufficient to allow a satisfactory food issue to all, although it appeared to be customary to give extra rations to the A/A BUTAI because they were engaged in active combat work.

Distribution Twice each month PW would take a truck and five men to Food Depot at RABAU for a fortnight's supply. In general food supply organization was smooth-working, but the type and quantity of food depended on the arrival of ships from overseas. The Depot frequently would issue short supplies, stating that "There had been too many ships sunk". (see sec 19). During his two months' stay at RABAU he had made about four trips to Depot for food and on two or three occasions he had been given the same excuse for shortage of supply. This in RABAU had heard that the defeats in NEW GUINEA were due to food shortages.

Meat and Fish given only once or twice a week and then usually mixed with vegetables. Once or twice a month either frozen meat brought from JAPAN or fresh meat obtained near RABAU was issued but this latter meat turned bad overnight and had to be consumed immediately. It was scarce, in any case.

Rice seemed to be a mixture of 50% JAPAN and 50% SAIGON and BANGKOK varieties. BANGKOK rice not very palatable and if eaten alone caused stomach troubles. For that reason it was mixed with other varieties. If barley was available it was added to mixture.

Sweets and Sugar were very scarce and cakes were not available. There was plenty of salt.

Beer Issued by Food depot at rate of 1 bottle per man per week.

SAKE One Jap SAKE bottle-full every two weeks.

Cigarettes Not plentiful. Half supply was issued and balance could be purchased. Usually a "pack" per day could be secured.

Canned Milk and Biscuits Occasionally supplies would arrive but the milk was not appetizing and there was little of it.

Water Supply in RABAU was poor. Each BUTAI dug its own well but water was not good, although purifying chemicals were not necessary. Rain water was collected in tanks for drinking purposes.

11. TRIALS & PROPAGANDA

TRIALS

Living Conditions in JAPAN PW last heard from his people when he was in MANCHURIA. He had also received a few comfort bags. He had received no letters while in RABAU but assured his people were all well. In JAPAN he had got special permission to post a card to his parents stating that all was well with him. He did not wish to write now as

he was a prisoner.

He thought there was a war boom in JAPAN, particularly benefiting those people dealing in war products, but taxation was very heavy and most profits were taken by Govt. Everything was rationed.

Political Conditions in JAPAN His father had vote for the Party and he himself would have voted for that Party if he had not been too young. However there was now only one Party, a combination of all.

PW hated Communism. It was non-existent in JAPAN today. When it was popular there, he had been at Primary School and at the time of the 26 Feb '36 Incident, he had been entering business. PW said that in one respect the instigators of this Incident were right because the profiteers such as MITSUBISHI and others were trying to get too much power and profit and this disturbance was a protest against their actions.

When the CHINA War broke out, PW was in business. He had thought that it would end quickly. PW knew of the CHINA-JAPAN War of 1894/5 and had read of the casualty and indemnity figures when studying history. He did not think that JAPAN had become weaker since then or CHINA stronger. The truth was that CHINA was too large to conquer. JAPAN did not stop at NORTH CHINA and establish a stable Govt there, thus avoiding fighting the whole of CHINA, because she was afraid that she would be within easy bombing range from places in the rest of CHINA.

TOJO had been forced to declare war when the NOMURA and KURUSU missions failed. These Japanese representatives had tried to get USA to sell materials but had been refused and TOJO thus had no choice, as JAPAN with her increasing population, could not have existed. Foreigners all seemed to have the idea that JAPAN was a warlike country but the opposite was true. She is poor and could not exist unless ENGLAND and USA traded with her. TOJO could not be blamed for this war as he was carrying out the National policy and in any case he had to obtain the Emperor's consent before declaring war.

Conditions in Fighting Services PW made a guess that during the past five years JAPAN had mobilized 5,000,000 men. When in MANCHURIA he had seen a Class album and noted that of 56 schoolmates about ten had been killed and about 25 or 26 wounded. He himself had been severely wounded in both legs and in the hand and had suffered from Malaria and Dengue.

Standing orders were that troops should commit suicide rather than be captured, and PW considered this attitude of authority wrong.

Although brothels were provided by the Army, there was only one woman to about 2000 troops, consequently only officers were accommodated.

Attitude to Allied Nations There was no doubt that a feeling of friendship had existed between ENGLAND and JAPAN. Certain people in the latter country had started the Anti-English campaign for patriotic reasons. He did not know why the Chinese disliked the Japanese. They seemed to make fun of his countryman.

He was absolutely certain that HEIJI's Rescript was being observed as regards treatment of captured enemy soldiers and of natives. He had seen 2 or 3 PW in RABAU employed in Engr work.

Attitude to Axis Nations PW had never heard of the GERMAN theory of racial superiority, but if it meant JAP inferiority it was quite wrong. It was definitely a mistake on the part of Hitler to put himself in the same category as the Emperor.

PROPAGANDA

Radio He had not heard the radio when in RABAU, but had listened in when at TOWEN (MANCHURIA). He had only heard TOKYO broadcasts. As