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Netherlands Forces Intelligence Service
(N.F.I.S.)

Interrogation Reports - March 1945.

Part 13.

/ODM

ALLIED LAND FORCES
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

SECRET

FORWARD ECHELON
S/472.0523/Int

23 Mar 45

Subject: MEMIS Interrogation Reports

GS (Int)

Hq 1st Ault Corps
(attn Lt-Col BONGHEED)

- ...
1. Forwarded herewith are three (3) copies of MEMIS Interrogation Reports Nos 1235 - 1238 of 8 Mar 45.
 2. A trace of the map accompanying the document will be forwarded separately within a few days.
 3. The original documents have now been returned to Col R BOEGER.

A. Sadler
Lt-Col
GS (Int)

SECRET

A. Sadler

Subject: INTERROGATION REPORTS OF NATIVES EVACUATED FROM -
N.E. BORNEO.

These reports refer to four natives of the BOELOENGAN River area (N.E. BORNEO) who were evacuated by an Allied aircraft in Jan 1945. They were all agricultural labourers but had made various voyages by sailing prahoe to districts in the vicinity, including TARAKAN. Their information is considered by the Dutch interrogators to be fairly reliable.

SECRET

NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE,
NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE BUILDING,
334-338 QUEEN STREET,
BRISBANE.

Copy No.

94

COMPILATION OF NEFIS INTERROGATION REPORTS
NOS. 1235-1238 (NOT ISSUED SEPARATELY).

NOTE.

These reports refer to four natives of the Boeloengan River area (N.E. Borneo) who were evacuated by an Allied aircraft in Jan 1945. They were all agricultural labourers but had made various voyages by sailing prahoe to districts in the vicinity, including Tarakan. Their information is considered to be fairly reliable.

The places covered in this report are all situated in N.E. Borneo.

111. TACTICAL DATA ON ENEMY MILITARY FORCES.Dispositions and Strength of Organisations and Units:

a. Tarakan (3°20'N, 117°35'E), N.E. Borneo, Sep - Oct 1944: One informant estimated the strength of the Japanese garrison as being in the region of 1,000 Naval personnel. He stated that a proportion of the force may have been civilians but all wore anchor insignia. They were quartered as follows:-

300 in the former 7th Bn. barracks ("Old Barracks") (see item No. 1 on attached sketch NEFIS No. FY 5411). 500 in the former B.P.M. (Shell Co.) coolie quarters (see item No. 2 on attached sketch). 100 in the former Naval Air Service barracks at Lingkas (see item No. 3 on attached sketch). 100 at the airfield.

Many of the officers were quartered in the European residential area (see item No. 4 on attached sketch), and general headquarters were at the former Militia quarters. Informant saw no officers of higher rank than that of Commander.

A coastal gun in a concrete emplacement was seen by another informant on the seaward side of the former Dutch Naval Air Service barracks at Lingkas (see item No. 5 on attached sketch).

A similar emplacement was seen near the south side of the jetty located south of the Karoengan River (see item No. 6 on attached sketch). It was situated between the road and the shore, about 500 yards northwest of the former Dutch gun emplacements, in which informant was able to observe one A/A and two coastal guns. (See item 7 on sketch).

Two coast defence guns were also seen immediately southwards of Tandjoeng Djoewata (3°25'N, 117°35'E).

Former Dutch pillboxes along the coast at Lingkas were unoccupied and the barbed wire defences were in a bad state of repair.

b. Tandjoeng Redeb (2°08'N, 117°30'E), N.E. Borneo, Sep 1944: One informant stated that there were about 50 Japanese Naval personnel in this area which included the mining district of Rantau Pandjang (Telok Bajoer), while another informant estimated that in Jan 1944 there were 15 Naval personnel in the township and 50 in the coalfield area. He claimed that a large percentage of these were officers and NCOs.

c. Tandjoeng Mangkalihat (1°00'N, 119°00'E), N.E. Borneo, Nov 1944: What he described as a 75 mm. coastal gun was seen by an informant. He was told that it was manned by a detachment of 12 Naval personnel.

XI.

ATROCITIES:

Factual:

a. The informant, Latip, gave the following account of an atrocity which he witnessed:-

Tarakan (3°20'N, 117°35'E), N.E. Borneo, Jun 1944: A European (name unknown), about 30 years of age and a former employee of B.P.M. (Shell Co), was put to work as a street cleaner in front of the former Naval Air Service Barracks at Lingkas. He attempted to escape by swimming to Karis Island and was pursued in a motorboat by Japanese, one of whom shot him through the shoulder. He was taken to the Naval Air Service Barracks, where he was questioned by the Kempei commandant. The escapee, who was bleeding profusely from his wound, raised his right arm and asked for mercy, whereupon the Kempei commandant ordered a Naval rating to bayonet him. The prisoner fell to the ground but was still alive. He was decapitated by the Kempei commandant and was buried where he fell by Indonesian PsW.

b. The informant, Nanang, stated that he witnessed the following:-

Tanahkoening Village (2°37'N; 117°50'E), N.E. Borneo, Dec 1944: An ex-RNI Army Soendanese soldier named Marawi, who had fled with his wife from Tarakan after an Allied air attack, was reported to the Japanese by a Badjonese named Djenal at Derawan Island. He was accused of giving information to the inhabitants of Tanahkoening Village concerning progress made by the Allies on Morotai and in the Philippines. Marawi was arrested and taken by prahoe to Derawan Island. On the way they were intercepted by another prahoe carrying the Japanese Naval rating, Tanaka. After enquiring whether the prisoner was in fact Marawi, Tanaka drew his revolver and shot him in the chest. The victim was taken to Derawan Island and later to Tarakan. His ultimate fate was unknown to informant. .

XII.

PERSONALITIES:

Army Personnel: Tarakan (3°20'N, 117°35'E), N.E. Borneo Sep 1944: Kempei Commander (name unknown) - a Japanese petty officer, who wore three red stripes and a red anchor on his sleeve. He was a sturdy build, about 30 years of age, and wore a long waxed moustache. He was a brutal man and much feared.

Naval Personnel: Derawan Island (2°15'N, 118°15'E), N.E. Borneo, Jan 1945:-

Tanaka) The only Naval ratings remaining on the island,
) They carried out patrols between Derawan Island
Kumamo) and the mainland, and also between Kakaban
) Island (2°10'N, 118°30'E) and Maratoea Island
Kunaja) (2°15'N, 118°35'E).

XIII.

GENERAL.

Civilian Internment Camps: Tarakan (3°20'N, 117°35'E), N.E. Borneo, Sep 1944: Three European women were interned under guard in the house previously occupied by the former Controleur (item No. 17 on attached sketch). They were employed at the Marconi radio station. One was described as about 40 years of age and the other two as being 17 and 15, respectively. Apart from one Dutch male seen at the PW Camp, these were the only civilians known to be interned on the island.

Prostitution: Tarakan (3°20'N, 117°35'E), N.E. Borneo: Sep 1944: About 50 Japanese women were housed near the hospital at "Ladang". They were reserved for the use of Japanese officers.

There were about 100 Javanese women at Sebengkok Village (Lingkas) and Boegis Village (Karanganjar) for the use of the lower ranks.



Director NEFIS

S.H. S P O O R
Col. G.S.R.N.I.A.

Camp Columbia, 8th Mar 1945.

AI2/12034/G.

Enclosures:

NEFIS Sketch No. FY 5411 - Tarakan,
" " " FY 5422 - Types of prahoos.