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**NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE  
(NEFIS)**

NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE BUILDING  
334-338 QUEEN STREET, BRISBANE

30 AUG 1944

No. AI2/5998/G.  
ENCLOSURES: 5

TEL. U70  
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SUBJECT: Interrogation Reports.

**FILE COPY** DATE:

28th August, 1944.

COMPILATION OF NEFIS INTERROGATION REPORTS NOS.  
103, 106-138, 141-159, 161-171, 173, 175-178  
and 193-194 (Not Issued).

1. Attached is Compilation of Nefis Interrogation Reports.
2. Information contained in this report is based solely on interrogation of evacuees and should be evaluated accordingly.
3. It is requested that care be taken in the distribution of the information contained therein. If the whole or any part of this report is reproduced, no indication may be given of names and localities concerned, to avoid compromising relatives of evacuees and exposing them to enemy reprisals, and to prevent closure of important sources of information.  
Copy No. 32.

~~Lt. Col. S. H. Spoor.  
Director NEFIS.~~

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Labour: One informant states that rates of pay in PW camps were as follows:-

Privates and Corporals	10 cents per day.
Sergeants and Sgts.-Maj.	15 cents per day.
W.O's and Sub.Lts.	25 cents per day.

Rates for higher officers were not known.

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NOTE:

The above reports refer to 124 informants, practically all ex PW, released at Hollandia and Biak by U.S. Forces during May-Jun 1944.

Informants come from various parts of the N.E.I.; all were forced to join Hei-Ho units which were transported to Hollandia and Biak areas. As their information for the greater part is identical with that included in interrogation reports issued previously, this compilation deals only with additional information.

IV. TREATMENT BY JAPANESE.

Interrogation: One informant states that shortly after the capitulation in Java he was taken to Bandoeng, where he was interrogated by a Japanese civilian who was assisted by a Malay (from Sumatra), and a Menadonese named Koelit. The last named, who had been in Japan from an early age, wore civilian clothes and a Japanese soldier's cap. Informant was only interrogated as to name, number, unit, parents' and relatives' names, and the name of his village.

Type of Custody: With one exception, informants confirmed the harsh treatment mentioned in previous reports.

One informant, however, who was interned in the PW camp in the former N.E.I. Machine Gun barracks at Magelang in Mar-Apr '42, states that the Japanese Commandant was very lenient and treated the prisoners well.

Another informant reports that members of the Hei-Ho were billeted in atap houses at Biak, without guards. There were, however, a number of scattered posts throughout the island.

A Javanese informant was given permission in May '42 (together with 39 others), to leave an internment camp in Macassar and return to his home at Magelang (Mid. Java), where he remained for about thirteen months.

Several Ambonese and Menadonese soldiers were invited to co-operate with the Japanese. In some cases they were given extra food and cigarettes by the Japanese, who expressed sorrow for the previous beatings PW had suffered. These tactics met with no success and afterwards PW were treated even more harshly, as a result of their unwillingness to co-operate.

A further instance of this refusal to co-operate is given by an informant who reports that in Jan '43, 1,000 Ambonese soldiers were removed from their internment camp at former 10th Bn., Batavia, to Glodok Gaol, Batavia, as punishment for such refusal.

Correspondence: Several informants mention that they were permitted to write postcards to their families, but contents were dictated by the Japanese. Very few availed themselves of this dubious concession. One informant sent five postcards from Biak to Menado and Soerabaja, but never received any replies. Hei-Ho personnel in Java sent postcards through official Japanese channels, but replies were very much delayed and only received from places in Java.

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Unethical Practices, Prostitution, etc: Several informants state that in Malang (Java) young unmarried native girls were sought from the villages and taken to hotels for immoral use of Japanese officers.

Several informants state that a brothel was established in Jul '43, near Kalidjati airfield (Java). The girls were forced to submit to Japanese soldiers for a payment of 50 cents. They were under guard and medically examined weekly. All those diseased were replaced by new girls. The establishment usually contained fifteen girls, and the Japanese numbered 300. Another informant, who was at Lembang (Java) in '42, states that a Japanese civilian named Nagatoeka, who had a very high position in connection with the impressing of food supplies for the Japanese Army, had at his residence one Dutch woman and three young Soendanese girls, who had been forced to become his concubines.

Some informants state that forty young women, mostly Javanese, but including some Eurasians, were put aboard "Celebes Maru" which sailed on 26 Jan '44, from Soerabaja for Biak. The women slept on hatches during the voyage, and day and night were consorted with in the open by all and sundry Japanese. Two Javanese women died and were buried at sea near Ceram and near Halmahera respectively. All women left the ship at Halmahera.

Enemy Knowledge of Allied Forces:

Enemy Reports of Results of Allied Attacks: Informant states that after the bombing of Soerabaja in Nov '43, the Japanese reported negligible losses to military installations. Nevertheless, the approaches to Tandjoeng Perak were closed for some days and informant learnt that eighteen truck loads of dead were removed from the area. Another informant read in the Japanese controlled newspapers that during the Nov '43 raids, four planes had dropped eighty bombs which killed thirty civilians but caused no material damage. Informant heard, however, that many Japanese casualties had occurred through the sinking of a small ship off Grissee. The masts of this ship could still be seen sticking out of the water. Informant also saw a large kapok store at Soerabaja still burning a week later.

Special Intelligence:

Economic Situation in Occupied Areas: Java: The food situation is obviously very bad, as several informants stress the insufficient supplies of rice and other foodstuffs, and the high prices ruling for clothing. One informant states that all transactions are still being carried out in currency, and that there was no barter in his district.

One informant in Soerabaja gives the price of pork as /1.20 per kattie, as against 40 cents in pre-war days, and beef 75 cents per kattie, as against 25 cents previously (1 kattie = 1.36 lbs).

The production of ground nuts was unchanged but prices to local consumers were double those ruling in pre-war days, due to the requisitioning of a large part of the crops by the Japanese.

Another informant states that tapioca costs twelve times the pre-war price, and that it was no longer possible to buy potatoes on account of the high prices. Maize was being pounded up and mixed with rice to augment rations.

An informant states that rice was only obtainable from Japanese controlled godowns, to which it had been delivered by the growers, who were forced to re-purchase the products of their own labour.

One informant expressed the opinion that the Japanese had established food stocks in Java for their own use for a long time ahead.

In Soerabaja '44, one informant saw a few Indonesians clothed in sacking. Many of those who previously wore sarongs now only wear short pants. Stocks of footwear were exhausted and shops empty.

One informant from the Bondowoso district states that a large rubber estate was being cleared of all rubber and planted with maize.

In Jul '43, an informant from the Kalidjati district states that all silver currency had disappeared from circulation, but on the black market silver coins obtained a premium of 50% over Japanese notes.

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Another informant was offered /10.00 in Japanese paper money for a silver coin of /2.50. The natives are hoarding any silver and Dutch notes which they possess.

No pensions were being paid by the Japanese to ex-Dutch pensioners.

One informant gives the following prices for second hand clothing:

Cotton singlet	/ 1.25 (pre-war 25 cents)
Sarong	/30.00 ( " " /4.50 " )
Towel	/ 2.00 ( " " 35 " )

Raw Materials and Natural Products: An informant from the Soerabaja district states that most of the rubber, tea and coffee estates had been abandoned, but not destroyed. He also states that only a few of the sugar mills were in operation around Soerabaja.

In the Ngandjoek district there was great activity in planting ramie (cotton), even sawah lands being taken over for this purpose. An informant from the Krembangan district states that, although the Japanese had ordered extensive planting of cotton and castor plants (djarak), all that informant saw were scattered plantings, and there was no organised planting up of areas.

Industries: Java: An informant states that, early in '43, a large food preserving industry was established at the Grand Hotel, Lembang (near Pandoeng), where vegetables were salted down and put in casks for Japanese Army use. There were 300 employees, and about 200 casks of 30 kattis each were turned out each day. (1 kattie = 1.36 lbs).

The same informant mentions that there were large scale activities by the Japanese at Tjimahi in the manufacture of soya bean sauce, saki and beer (manufactured in the former steam laundry). The former soap factory which was owned by J.M.Bloc, had been taken over by the Japanese, and a former Chinese employee put in charge. The soap produced is used by the Japanese Army. (Mrs. Bloc still works in the factory, but Mr. Bloc had been interned).

An informant observed on 24 Jan '44, that a wooden vessel of about 30 metres in length and 4 metres in breadth was being built on a slip near the dry dock in Tandjoeng Perak harbour, Soerabaja. Three similar craft were afloat nearby.

Mercantile Shipping and Transportation: An informant who enquired in Soerabaja whether any native prahoes went to Menado was informed that all prahoe traffic to Menado, Macassar and Borneo had been stopped. Whilst at sea between Soerabaja, Ambon, Lolobata and Biak informant did not see any native prahoes, which was in marked contrast to the numerous prahoes he had seen on previous voyages in this area.

Labour: An informant who was at Rabaul and Kokopo in Dec '43 saw many Chinese, Formosans and Malays from Singapore employed there as labourers.

In Jan '44, an informant whose ship called at Ambon, states that there were only Javanese and Menadonese coolies working on the ships at the anchorage. Those questioned stated that all Ambonese had refused to work for the Japanese, and fled to the hills. An Ambonese selling fruit stated that many Ambonese were in prison.

An informant states that 2,000 coolies were employed on construction of the airfields at Grisse (Java). They were promised payment of 50 cents per day but after one month they received no payment and many ran away.

Social Aspect: At Soerabaja the public were allowed to use their Mosques, but no prayers were permitted in PW camps.

Another informant states that the Mosques had not been interfered with, but many Christian Churches in Soerabaja were being used by the Japanese as mess halls. One Roman Catholic Church was still believed to be functioning.

#### X. COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE.

##### Personalities:

Army Personnel: An informant gives the names of the following



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II. GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE NON-MILITARY INFORMATION  
OBTAINED FROM THE INTERROGATION OF JAVANESE COOLIES  
TAKEN INTO CUSTODY NEAR AITAPE, REGARDING VARIOUS  
PLACES IN EAST JAVA.1. Civil Administration:

In most villages no change has been made in the village administration. The native village police have been maintained, assisted by members of the "Kaibodan" and "Seinendan". Japanese Police are not to be found in the villages. The members of the "Kaibodan" and "Seinendan" are not armed.

One informant mentions the case of Javanese Police refusing to work for the Japanese and discarding their uniforms. Later, however, they were compelled to return and are now much more aggressive towards the population than before.

2. Agriculture:

Reports on the food situation varied in different villages but, generally speaking, outside the larger towns there was sufficient rice, which was sometimes supplemented by growing tapioca, sweet potatoes and maize. Some part of the rice grown has to be delivered to the Japanese through the village headman, but informants gave different accounts of the quantity involved. Estimates of the quantity to be delivered varies between one-third and three-quarters of the crop.

Many informants mentioned the compulsory planting of castor oil plants, and, in some areas, cotton; the whole of the crops having to be handed over to the Japanese.

3. Commerce and Prices:

In the towns many shops are closed, and where they are open, their wares consist of old stocks. There is a shortage of clothing everywhere. In many districts kerosene, clothing and cigarettes are not obtainable. Salt is difficult to obtain; coconut oil is only obtainable in limited quantities.

In many districts a rationing system is in force for rice; in one case a family of 5 persons only receives an allowance of 1 kilo of rice per day.

In some districts soap, tea, matches and coffee are not available, whilst in others they are strictly rationed.

Tools and nails are not generally available.

4. Clothing prices varied as follows:

Cotton Coat	from /2.50 to / 8.00.
Sarong	7.00 8.00.
Cotton Singlet	1.00 2.00.
Velvet Cap	0.80 5.00.
Rubber-soled Slippers	0.75 2.00.
Leather Slippers	3.50
Head Cloth	from /4.50 to / 6.50.

5. Prices of Foodstuffs:

In one district rice was sold to the Japanese at /3.75 per

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100 kilos, whilst in another district, it was sold to the native consumers on the basis of /25.00 per 100 kilos.

Meat was generally available but prices had increased by 30%; Sugar was usually plentiful.

#### 6. Transport:

In Sourabaya, all conveyances (even the three-wheeled bicycle-carriages) were seized by the Japanese and can only be hired from them.

#### 7. Education:

All native schools have remained open, and the curriculum now usually includes the Japanese language and gymnastics. In some villages, the number of pupils has increased during the occupation.

All European schools have been closed.

All young men have been forced to join the "Kaibodan" or "Seinendan" This entitles them to certain privileges, such as the purchase of clothing. Village schoolteachers are often engaged in training the above corps, exercises being carried out with wooden rifles. Rallies are sometimes held at the larger places, resulting in fairly large gatherings. Some schools have longer hours, the extra time being employed in learning Japanese.

A third Japanese institution of a similar nature is mentioned by several informants, called the "Peimoeda". Apparently, they are also subjected to much the same training.

#### 8. Finance:

Native taxes have not been increased. In most villages only Dutch coins up to 25 ¢ are in circulation. In most places Japanese paper money has been substituted. Gold coins used as brooches have increased by 100% in value.

In one district a tax of 4% is levied on all income earned. The system of tax-collecting has been tightened up.

In most cases the village credit banks remain open, with regulations unchanged.

#### 9. Internment:

Women and children in the bigger towns have been interned behind barbed wire. In smaller places, some women and children appear to be at liberty, but in very reduced circumstances. The exception appears to be at Macassar, where European women have been allowed to stay in their own houses, but were not allowed to communicate with other internees. In one place, there are still some Dutchmen working unhindered.

#### 10. Industry:

Some sugar factories have been closed down; others are still working. A rice factory is mentioned as still working, and a peanut factory to have been converted into a storage place for firewood.

At Malang, the electric power station and ice factory are run by Indonesians under control of a Japanese. Price of electricity was unchanged, but gas is no longer available.

One engineering firm still employs about 60 Javanese, but most of the former employees did not wish to work for the Japanese and returned to their villages.

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11. Labour:

Recruitment of coolies seems to be done quite systematically through Chinese and native contractors, who entice the natives by promises of relatively high wages, varying from 50 ¢ to /1.50 per day, to work for the Japanese.

Large numbers were congregated in a "Collection Centre" in Sourabaya and then transported to Batavia for shipment to Palau, Hollandia, and elsewhere.

Some labourers employed at Karako (near Aitape) received no wages at all, whilst one man received /234 for six months' work.

Labourers suffered much ill-treatment at the hands of the Japanese.

12. Medical Affairs:

Hospitals and district clinics are still functioning, the latter usually with an Indonesian medical officer in charge. The large, Central People's Hospitals (C.B.Z.) at Sourabaya and Malang still had their European staffs; also the chemists' shops.

Apart from quinine tablets, medicines are reported to be in sufficient supply.

13. Treatment of Population:

The native population in general are much depressed and they have become very much impoverished in the towns.

In many villages, informants had not heard of any cases of arbitrary behaviour on the part of the Japanese, but a number of incidents have been reported in other districts, such as the punishment of a native thief by cutting off part of a finger of the right hand. On another occasion, a thief was bayoneted and hanged to a lamp-post.

Two cases are reported of Dutch women being beaten and tied to trees for not having bowed to sentries. Dutch women have also been removed and not seen again. Native women have been taken away for immoral purposes, and there is one isolated case of a Dutch woman being compelled to live as a prostitute in a hotel.

One informant stated that in spite of their freedom the inhabitants did not dare to run away out of fear of reprisals by the Japanese.

14. Prisoners of War:

At Macassar, Dutch p.o.w. were still in camp near Wilhelmina Quay in January, 1943. They were very poorly fed, were very thin, and clothed only in rags; no shoes. Europeans, Ambonese and Menadonese were all together in the same camp. They were made to repair streets and houses, and were also employed in stone-crushing. The inhabitants were forbidden to speak to or help p.o.w. in any way.

15. Propaganda:

Only one informant had heard of leaflets being dropped by Allied aircraft. Most wireless receiving sets had been called in, but sometimes they were only sealed.

16. Religion:

There was no interference with the mosques nor with the churches; the only exception being the report that a church in Sourabaya had been taken over as a Police Training school.