

1 Every night in the Japanese Prison Camps or rather
the majority of them - lights out meant to bed - all
lights out - no smoking etc. But after the Camp had
settled down for the night a true band of men went
into action. These were the Operators of Secret Wireless Sets
with attendant Scouts & "Cockatoos" who received the outside
news of the world which meant so much to in boosting
the morale of the unfortunate prisoners of war.

Being an Operator in several Camps some aspects
of this Secret Wireless working will no doubt be of
interest as it was thrilling in the extreme to me.

At Adam Park Camp Singapore he managed
to secure with the help of Chinese - two receivers -
one a ^{Novo} a ^{Novo} a ^{Novo} Philco Radiophone and a
Jual name Stromberg Carlson both in good condition.

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we "hotted up" the radio line of the Philips and tests showed she was capable of receiving practically all then operating stations. Each night news was received from BBC & KGEI and passed to J.I.F. Area Hqts who promulgated the news directly to all in the Area head-qr. At 11.30 pm one night we picked up a station an Australian P.W. Station giving news "to South East Asia and messages to civil internees in S.E. Asia & prisoners of war in Java" and operating from Victoria.

So important was the successful reception each night of this Station's messages that we decided to construct a secret operating room where the service could be received & properly recorded. So right under the noses of Sikh guards (Kaitoris who turned over to the Japs) we dug a room under our quarters 8ft. x 8ft. & 7ft. deep - Lined with the earth & served by a trap door concealed under a woodheap installed both receivers - led in power down through cavity wall

SHIRALINE

installed light and even an electric fan.

In the room every night at 9.45 - myself and my
 officer Larry Cottrell of Div Hqs. since died in Burma
 received the B.B.C. news, Kōbō (News of the World) then
 copied upwards to 30 messages from wives & relatives of
 civil internees & prisoners of war. Most of these messages
 were from wives of civil internees who had evacuated from
 Malaya & had reached Australia. Most of these messages gave
 the information that wives etc were safe and at such and
 such a place. Kinross knew of it and was the first news
 the recipients had had of their wives whereabouts or safety.

One night came a Japanese order that the whole camp
 was to move next day to a camp about a mile away
 actually the buildings occupied by RAAF Hq. To East
 at Byrne Road. Once again the Japs were outwitted - the

Whole of the gear was transferred from our operating room and taken to the new Camp ^{at} head of high right post-jap grounds. In the new Camp the Service Kit was carried out this time in a tent heavily screened by "Cockatoos".

In the Camp Small Lts were used - simple valve - really ^{occasionally} ~~Northy~~. The overseas broadcasts were not always possible with these Small Lts - but generally picked up the DBC waves rebroadcast from New Delhi.

When working parties or forces left Singapore for such places as Guernsey. Bombs etc. & many wireless components to build a small skimmer capable of receiving news services were taken - carried split up over perhaps 20 men - each man carrying one Small part to obviate the risk of detection during a Japanese search of gear.

Sep 11th 1945

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CD12 V EF20. Radio Kuching

Wireless message received at Kuching from
9th Aust. Division Labuan - Morse. For info per Min

Operator at Kuching Sgt H.W. Weston - Operator
at Labuan Sig Obe Guntman

For urgent transmission to Japanese Headquarters
Kuching @

Message received 1218 hrs 11 Sep 45 at Kuching
Originator No LC140 The following message from
Lieut Gen BABA to all his commandos in British Borneo
will be transmitted by wireless through 9th Australian Division
to Major Gen YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese
forces Kuching for distribution as directed @ Dash @
From @ Lieut General BABA Commanding General
37 Japanese Army @ To @ Major General YAMAMURA
Commanding General Japanese Forces Kuching @ First
I Lieut General BABA Commanding General 37 Japanese
Army have now proclaimed the unconditional Surrender
to the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division
of all Japanese Army forces and all army forces
under Japanese control in British Borneo and the
Naituna Islands @ (Second) @ I hereby command

SHIRAIUME

You and all members of the Japanese armed
forces and of all armed forces under Japanese
control to cease hostilities immediately, disarm
your forces, hold your forces in their present
locations and do such acts and things as may be
required of you and of the forces under your command
and control by the General Officer Commanding
9th Australian Division or his authorized representative
or representatives (Third). Further you will ensure
that all Japanese civil military and naval
officials and all members of the Japanese armed
forces and armed forces under Japanese control
obey this order and all proclamations orders and
directions which will from time to time be issued

by the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian
Division or his representative or representatives. Fourth. Any
delay or failure to comply with the provisions
of this or subsequent orders and any action which
the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division
determines to be detrimental to the allied powers
will incur drastic and summary punishment
at the hands of the allied military authorities
and the Japanese Government. Fifth. I order
Major General YAMAMURA commanding General
Japanese Forces KUCHING to receive for himself
and transmit the above information and orders
to the following Japanese Commanders under
my command. Maj General TAKASHI
Commanding General 5th Independent Mixed Brigade
TENOM

• Major General H. YAMAMURA Commanding
General 71 Independent Mixed Brigade Kuching •
Col SIYEMURA Commanding 25 Independent Mixed
Regiment Jesselton • Colonel M. AIKYO Commanding
Miri Garrison Miri • Colonel T. MACHIGUCHI
Commanding 376 Japanese Army Military Police
Unit Sarong • Lieutenant Colonel K. OYE
Commanding 147 Army Hospital Melalap • Major
M. SUGASAKI Commanding 370 Independent Infantry
Battalion Tawao • Major T. WATANABE Commanding
Beaufort Garrison Beaufort • Capt. Y. SAITO
Commanding Borneo Area Communications Corps
Sarong • Lieutenant Colonel M. OGATA Keningan •
(B) Major General YAMAMURA will ensure that all
the above mentioned commanders

Acknowledge receipt of the above information
and orders and that such acknowledgements
are passed separately immediately they are
received by Wireless to HQ. 9th Australian
Division. ©

M. BABA Lieutenant
Colonel - Commanding
Group 37 Japanese Army.
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KUCHING, SARAWAK. II Sept 1945.

Message received 1218 hrs II Sept at KUCHING FROM HQ. 9 Aust Div LABUAN.
Operator at Labuan Sig. Sweetman. Operator at Kuching Sgt. A. W. Weston.
Originators NO. LC140.

The following message from Lieut-Gen BABA to all his Commanders in British Borneo will be transmitted by wireless through 9th Australian Division to Maj-Gen YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese forces Kuching for distribution as directed.--6

From- Lieut-Gen BABA Commanding General 37 Japanese Army
To- Maj-Gen YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese forces KUCHING.

- (1) I Lieut-Gen BABA Commanding General 37 Japanese Army have now proclaimed the unconditional surrender to the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division of all Japanese Army forces and all forces under Japanese control in British Borneo and the Natuna Islands.
- (2) I hereby command you and all members of the Japanese armed forces and of all armed forces under Japanese control to cease hostilities immediately, disarm your forces, hold your forces in their present locations and do such acts and things as may be required of you and of the forces under your command and control by the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division or his authorised representative or representative.
- (3) Further you will insure that all Japanese Civil, Military and Naval officials and all members of the Japanese armed forces and armed forces under Japanese control obey this order and all proclamations orders and directions which will from time to time be issued by the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division or his representative or representatives.
- (4) Any delay or failure to comply with the provisions of this or subsequent orders and any action which the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division determines to be detrimental to the Allied Powers will incur drastic and summary punishment at the hands of the Allied Military Authorities and the Japanese Government.
- (5) I order Maj-Gen YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese forces KUCHING to receive for himself and transmit the above information and orders to the following Japanese Commanders under my command:-

Maj-Gen TAKAHI Commanding General 5 Independent Mixed Brigade
TENOM. Maj-Gen H. YAMAMURA Commanding General 71 Independent Mixed Brigade KUCHING. Col. SIYEMURA Commanding 25 Independent Mixed Regiment JESSELTON. Colonel M. AIKO Commanding MIRI Garrison MIRI. Colonel. T. MACHIGUCHI Commanding 376 Japanese Army Military Police Unit SAPONG. Lieutenant Colonel. K. OYE Commanding 147 Army Hospital MELALAP. Major. M. SUGASAKI

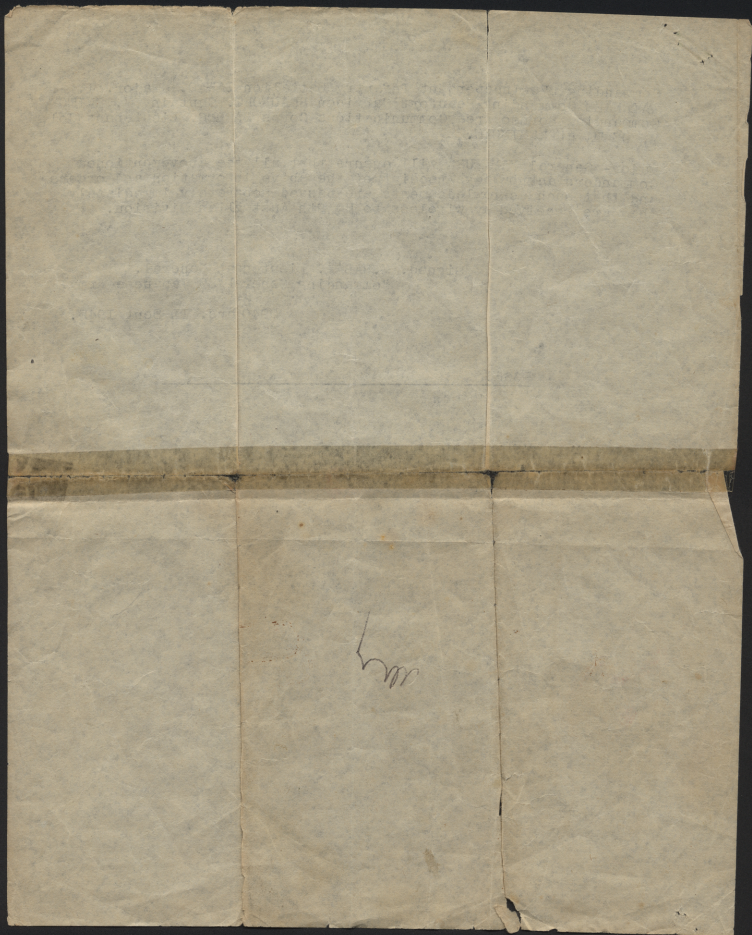
Commanding 370 Independent Infantry Battalion TAWAO. Major. I. WATANABE Commanding Beaufort Garrison BEAUFORT. Captain. Y. SAITO Commanding Borneo Area Communications Corps SAPONG. Lieutenant Col. M. OGATA at KENINGAU.

Major- General YAMAMURA will ensure that all the abovementioned Commanders acknowledge receipt of the above information and orders and that such acknowledgements are passed separately immediately they are received by wireless to HQ 9th Australian Division.

Signed. M.BABA . Lieutenant General.
Commanding General 37 Japanese Army.

0940 hrs. 11 Sept 1945.

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KUCHING, SARAWAK. 11 Sept 1945.

Message received 1218 hrs 11 Sept at KUCHING FROM HQ. 9 Aust Div LABUAN. Operator at Labuan Sig. Sweetman. Operator at Kuching Sgt. A.W. Weston. Originators NO. LCI40.

The following message from Lieut-Gen BABA to all his Commanders in British Borneo will be transmitted by wireless through 9th Australian Division to Maj-Gen YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese forces Kuching for distribution as directed.

From - Lieut-Gen BABA Commanding General 37 Japanese Army
To - Maj-Gen YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese Forces
KUCHING.

- (1) I Lieut-Gen BABA Commanding General 37 Japanese Army have now proclaimed the unconditional surrender to the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division of all Japanese Army forces and all forces under Japanese control in British Borneo and the Natuna Islands.
- (2) I hereby command you and all members of the Japanese armed forces and of all armed forces under Japanese control to cease hostilities immediately, disarm your forces, hold your forces in their present locations and do such acts and things as may be required of you and of the forces under your command and control by the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division or his authorised representative or representatives.
- (3) Further you will ensure that all Japanese Civil, Military and Naval officials and all members of the Japanese armed forces and armed forces under Japanese control, obey this order and all proclamations orders and directions which will from time to time be issued by the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division or his representative or representatives.
- (4) Any delay or failure to comply with the provisions of this or subsequent orders and any action which the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division determines to be detrimental to the Allied Powers will incur drastic and summary punishment at the hands of the Allied Military Authorities and the Japanese Government.
- (5) I order Maj-Gen YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese forces KUCHING to receive for himself and transmit the above information and orders to the following Japanese Commanders under my command:-

Maj-Gen TAKASHI Commanding General 5 Independent Mixed Brigade
TENOM. Maj-Gen H. YAMAMURA Commanding General 71 Independent
Mixed Brigade KUCHING. Col. SIYEMURA Commanding 25 Independent
Mixed Regiment JESSELTON. Colonel M. AIKYO Commanding MIRI
Garrison MIRI. Colonel T. MACHIGUCHI Commanding 376 Japanese
Army Military Police Unit SAPONG. Lieutenant Colonel K. OYE
Commanding 147 Army Hospital MELALAP. Major M. SUGASAKI
Commanding 370 Independent Infantry Battalion TAWAO.
Major I. WATANABE Commanding Beaufort Garrison BEAUFORT.
Captain Y. SAITO Commanding Borneo Area Communications Corps
SAPONG. Lieutenant Col. M. OGATA at KENINGAU.

Major-General YAMAMURA will ensure that all the abovementioned Commanders acknowledge receipt of the above information and orders and that such acknowledgements are passed separately immediately they are received by wireless to HQ 9th Australian Division.

Signed. M. BABA. Lieutenant General
Commanding General 37 Japanese Army.

0940 hrs. 11 Sept 1945



*Copied from the original pencil-written manuscript
by Sergeant A.W. (Alan) Weston O/N NX57941,
Superintendent of Wireless, 8th Division Signals.*

Every night in the Japanese prison camps or rather the majority of them - lights out meant to bed - all lights out - no smoking, etc. But after the camp had settled down for the night a small band of men went into action. These were the Operators of Secret Wireless Sets with attendant Scouts and "Cockatoos" who received the outside news of the world which meant so much in boosting the morale of the unfortunate prisoners of war.

Being an operator in several camps, some aspects of this Secret Wireless working will no doubt be of interest as it was thrilling in the extreme to me.

At Adam Park Camp, Singapore, we managed to secure with the help of Chinese - two receivers - one a dual wave Phillips Radioplayer and a dual wave Stromberg Carlson, both in good condition. We "hotted" up the radio [side] of the Phillips and tests showed she was capable of receiving practically all then-operating stations. Each night news was received from BBC and KGEI and passed to AIF Area H'qrtrs who promulgated this news discretely to all in the area next day. At 11:30pm one night we picked up an Australian S.W. Station giving news "to S.E. Asia and messages to Civil internees in S.E. Asia and prisoners in Java" and operating from Victoria.

So important was the successful reception each night of this Station's messages that we decided to construct a secret operating room where the service could be received and properly recorded. So right under the noses of Sikh guards (traitors who turned over to the Japs) we dug a room under our quarters 8ft x 8ft x 7ft deep - disposed of the earth and served by a trap door concealed under a woodheap, installed both receivers - led in power down through cavity-walls, installed light and even an electric fan.

In this room every night at 9:45 myself and my offsider Harry Cotterill of 8th Div Sigs - since died in Burma - received the BBC news, KGEI (News of the World), then copied upwards to 30 messages from wives and relatives of civil internees and prisoners of war. Most of those messages were from wives of civil internees who had evacuated from Malaya and had reached Australia. Most of these messages gave the information that wives etc. were safe and at such and such a place - Kiddies were

OK etc. and was the first news the recipients had had of their wives' whereabouts or safety.

One night came a Japanese order that the whole camp was to move next day to a camp about a mile away, actually the building occupied by RAF H'qrtrs Far East at Lyme Road. Once again the Japs were outwitted - the whole of the gear was trans[port]ed from our operating room and taken to the new camp [in the] dead of night right past Jap guards. In the new camp [the] service still went on, carried out this time in a te[nt] heavily screened by "Cockatoos".

In other camps, small sets were used - single valve - really Hortley [?] oscillators. The overseas broadcasts were not always possible with these small sets, but generally picked up the BBC news rebroadcast from New Delhi.

When working parties or forces left Singapore for such places as Burma, Borneo, etc., necessary wireless components to build a small receiver capable of receiving news services were taken, carried split up over perhaps 20 men, each man carrying one small part to obviate the risk of detection during a Japanese search of gear.



Sept 11th 1945

CD12 V EF20. Radio Kuching

Wireless message received at Kuching from 9th Aust. Division
Labuan - Morse, 30 wds per min

Operator at Kuching Sgt A.W. Weston;
Operator at Labuan Sig Doc[sic] Sweetman

For urgent transmission to Japanese Headquarters Kuching.

Message received 1218hrs 11 Sep 45 at Kuching

Originators No LC140 The following message from Lieut Gen BABA to all his commanders in British Borneo will be transmitted by wireless through 9th Australian Division to Major Gen YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese Forces Kuching for distribution as directed. Dash.

From.

Lieut General BABA Commanding General 37 Japanese Army.

To.

Major General YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese Forces Kuching.

(First) I, Lieut General BABA Commanding General 37 Japanese Army, have now proclaimed the unconditional surrender to the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division of all Japanese Army forces and all army forces under Japanese control in British Borneo and the Natuna Islands.

(Second) I hereby command you and all members of the Japanese armed forces and of all armed forces under Japanese control to cease hostilities immediately, disarm your forces, hold your forces in their present locations and do such acts and things as may be required of you and of the forces under your command and control by the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division or his authorised representative or representatives.

(Third) Further, you will ensure that all Japanese civil, military, and naval officials and all members of the Japanese armed forces and armed forces under Japanese control obey this order and all proclamations, orders and directions which will from time to time be issued by the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division or his authorised representative or representatives.

(Fourth) Any delay or failure to comply with the provisions of this or subsequent orders and any action which the General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division determines to be detrimental to the Allied Powers will incur drastic and summary punishment at the hands of the Allied Military Authorities and the Japanese Government.

(Fifth) I order Major General YAMAMURA Commanding General Japanese Forces Kuching to receive for himself and transmit the above information and orders to the following Japanese Commanders under my command.

Maj General TAKASHI Commanding General 5th Independent Mixed Brigade TENOM.

Major General H. YAMAMURA Commanding General 71 Independent Mixed Brigade Kuching.

Col SIYEMURA Commanding 25 Independent Mixed Regiment Jesselton.

Colonel M. AIKYO Commanding Miri Garrison Miri

Colonel T. MACHIGUCHI Commanding 376 Japanese Army Military Police Unit Sapon.

Lieutenant Colonel K. OYE Commanding 147 Army Hospital
Melalap.

Major M. SUGASAKI Commanding 370 Independent Infantry
Battalion Tawao.

Major I. WATANABE Commanding Beaufort Garrison
Beaufort.

Capt Y. SAITO Commanding Borneo Area Communications
Corps Spong.

Lieutenant Colonel M. OGATA Keningan.

(B) Major General YAMAMURA will ensure that all the above mentioned commanders acknowledge receipt of the above information and orders and that such acknowledgements are passed separately immediately they are received by wireless to HQ 9th Australian Division.

M. BABA Lieutenant General Commanding
General 37 Japanese Army

0940