

AWM52
2nd Australian Imperial Force and
Commonwealth Military Forces unit war
diaries, 1939-45 War

Item number: 8/2/7

7 Infantry Brigade

September - November 1942,
Appendices

APPX 52
NOTES ON INTERROGATION.

SUBJECT: MORIYAMA TOSNIO
RANK: 1st CLASS MARINE
AGE: 30 yrs
UNIT: "HAYASHI" Special Naval Landing Bn.

PW. NO 2

The above named prisoner was captured at MILNE BAY on 31 Aug 42. He was badly wounded in the thigh by a piece of shrapnel, and was in a very weak condition when interrogated.

He stated that he had a number of years training and was called from the naval reserve. He left the port of KUSUMOTO in JAPAN about 27 May 42 aboard the 'BRAZIL MARU'. About 3 Jun, approximately 300 miles from MIDWAY IS, his convoy was heavily attacked from the air. The 'BRAZIL MARU' was damaged and returned to KAMA ISLAND in the CAROLINES. He left KAMA on 7/8 Aug aboard the 'HAKADOTE MARU' and arrived at RABAU on 11 Aug. Soon after arrival (about 1100 Hrs) RABAU was attacked and his ship suffered three direct hits. It sank very soon after. Of an estimated number of 800 aboard, only 300 escaped. The prisoner and others were picked up by launch.

On 24 Aug he was one of 800 marines who boarded the 'NANKAI MARU' which he thinks was about 3000 tons. In company with 2 destroyers followed by two heavy destroyers some distance behind he entered MILNE BAY on the night of 26/27 Aug. Personnel were landed by M.L.C. No opposition was encountered, and they re-embarked at about 2100 hrs and landed some distance east of RABI at 0200 hrs on 27 Aug. Five M.L.C., each capable of carrying 45 men were carried in the hold of the 'NANKAI MARU'. 150 marines were landed from each of the four destroyers. Before the 'NANKAI MARU' had finished unloading it was bombed and sunk. About 300 troops and most of the supplies were thought to have been lost on the south shore of MILNE BAY (time indefinite).

light
At least two medium tanks, of a type new to the prisoner, co-operated in the move westwards. Heavy casualties were suffered particularly as a result of air strafing. (The latter had a most demoralising effect). The prisoner was wounded by shrapnel north of the aerodrome (Eastern strip). He then became unconscious.

Prisoner gives numbers of troops taking part in the operations as: 1400 marines and "fighting engineers" (Pioneer Bn) and at least 300 coolies. He admitted that there could have been more fighting troops. The coolies originally came from KYUSHU and CHOSEN. No NEW GUINEA natives were used.

No information was given regarding the enemy's original intention and the prisoner had no idea of our strength. P.W. carried rifle and normal equipment and his pl was commanded by Sgt DOKO, his company was known as FUJIMURA TAI under Capt FUJIMURA. His Bn was apparently independent Marine Landing Bn known as HAYASHI BUTAI commanded by Lt-Col HAYASHI. Strength of units was not given.

Nothing was known of KOKODA, BUNA, LAE, SALAMAUA or WAU.

Prisoner was in RABAU for a week. He stated that on 23 Aug three army transports each of about 7000 tons and heavily loaded with troops (he thought about 1½ Bns each) departed for an unknown destination. They were not escorted when they left RABAU. He gave the name of the army commander in RABAU as Lt-GEN TAKAMORI IWAO who is about 60 years of age. Prisoner stated that at least one div or army troops are at present in RABAU. The name of the naval commander was given as CHUSO (Equivalent of our Vice Admiral) KAMAZAWA SABURO.
(Comment - latter known to be in RABAU in Mar 42)

Strength of Naval Landing Force was given as 3 Bns of marines (under strength owing to casualties and illness) and five full Bns.

Type of tank used at MILNE BAY was said to have a crew of four, namely comdr (2nd class NCO), driver (1st class engineer) and 2 gunners (1st class marines).

Information regarding rank badges was given as follows: Red anchor upright on dark blue circular 3" patch, 3rd class marine.
Crossed red anchors on same patch - class marine, crossed red anchor

with red five pointed cherry blossom above on same patch - 1st class marine. Rank of naval landing force engineers is similarly indicated by the substitution of spanner, crossed spanners etc. and of air crew by aircraft, crossed aircraft etc.

Names and information which have been checked for reliability and have been confirmed from other sources have been underlined in red.

The prisoner appeared to be truthful but no degree of reliability can be given to information other than that mentioned in the foregoing para.

Interrogator: Capt LLOYD.

2 Sep 42.

(sgd) J.P. BERGINS,
Capt,
GS(I) HQ NGF.

*portions underlined in red verified
from other sources.*

NOTES ON INTERROGATION

IO to units

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(Sgd) J.P. BERGINS,
Capt.

G.S.(I) H.Q. NCF.

2 Sept 42.



JCM/HEM (17/10)

P.W. No 9

MOST SECRET

H.Q. 7 Aust Inf Bde,
17 Oct 42.

Subject : INTERROGATION REPORT OF JAP P.W.

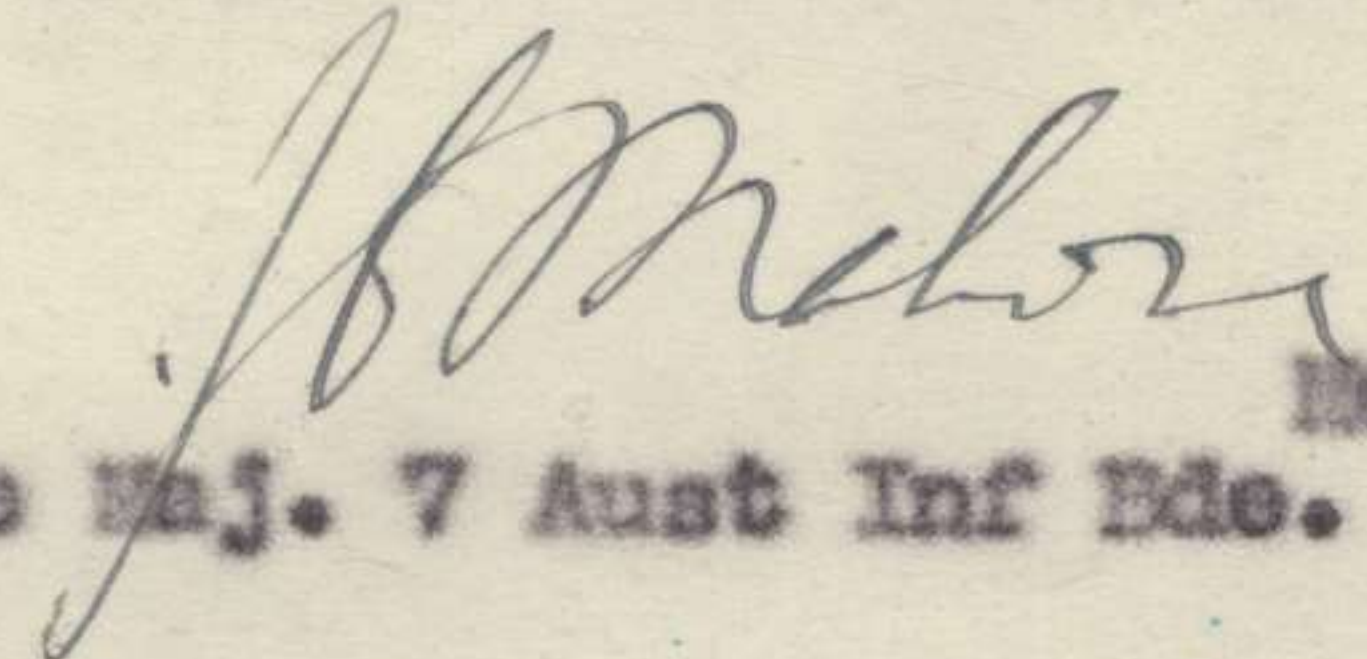
9 Aust Inf Bn
25 Aust Inf Bn
61 Aust Inf Bn

Herewith report of interrogation of Naval
W.O. OBARA, NOBUO, Comd 4 pl 1 Coy YANO Unit (Kure No 3 S.L.P.)
Captured MILNE BAY 7 Oct 42.

2. On being questioned at MILNE BAY prisoner
had declared he was a coolie. His own diary proved that he had
been lying.

3. This is another illustration of the
importance of sending back rapidly all captured documents.

ACK.


Maj.
Bde Maj. 7 Aust Inf Bde.

PW FILE NO 6

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

SECRET
K54

HQ Milne Force.

7 Oct 42.

SUBJECT: REPORT ON PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF
JAP P.W. CAPTURED ON 6 OCT BY 2/12 BN
2 MILES ALONG ROUTE 7.

7 Bde
18 Bde

Herewith copy of P.W. report for your infm.

[Handwritten Signature]
Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

PW - 6

HQ MILNE FORCE
7 Oct 42.

7 Bde

SUBJECT: REPORT ON PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF
JAP P.W. CAPTURED ON 6 OCT BY 2/12 BN
ABOUT 2 MILES ALONG ROUTE 7.

N.G. FORCE.

1. NAME : OBARA, NOBUO
RANK : COOLIE
AGE : 31 YRS
OCCUPATION (Prior to War) : FARMER
CALLED UP FOR SERVICE IN 1938.

P.W. left RABAUL on 28 Aug on one of three destroyers escorted by two minesweepers, and arrived at a landing place East of RABI at about 1900 hrs on 29 Aug.

There were approx 150 or 160 men on each of the three destroyers. They were a mixture of the HAYASHI and YOKOSUKA Units. There were 150 men in the YOKOSUKA Unit, possibly comprising the YOSHIYOKA detachment. In prisoner's party there were 120 marines and 40 coolies, the duty of the latter being to carry the baggage of the marines, plus a portion of the ammunition. H.M.G's, L.M.G's and Grenade Dischargers were landed. No arty or tanks were brought.

YOKOSUKA himself did not make the trip as he had been wounded during operations in the SOLOMONS about the middle of Aug.

Personnel were landed in "DAIHATSU" large type of motor-boat. Their objective was to capture the strip near RABI. After landing they immediately entered the jungle and took up positions in concealment. They rested during the following day. After they had delivered their unsuccessful attack on the strip, they were forced to split up into smaller groups.

OBARA with 5 other coolies and 2 soldiers made off into the hills on 2 Sep. The coolies were unarmed and the soldiers carried pistols and rifles. P.W. thinks the soldiers moved along the mountains in an Easterly direction whilst the coolies attempted to make for BUNA. He was unable to continue due to sore feet, and was left behind alone on 1 Oct.

Since then he had very little to eat, and on 6 Oct entered a native's hut in search of food. The native reported his presence and he was captured by No 1 post of 2/12 Bn. He is suffering from fever and sore feet.

NOTE : P.W. appears to be relieved and glad to be a prisoner. He shows no reluctance to answer questions, and seems to be above average intelligence.

Copy [unclear]
[unclear]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

K153

HQ Milne Force,

30 Oct 42.

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.

MILNE FORCE NO 17.

NEW GUINEA FORCE.

1.... Herewith report on preliminary interrogation of
above numbered P.W. captured between LILIHOA - WAHAHUBA 28 Oct 42.

G. A. CLOWES Maj-Gen.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

Copies to:-

7 Aust Inf Bde ✓
17 Aust Inf Bde
18 Aust Inf Bde

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION JAP P.W.

MILNE FORCE NO 17

(Interrogator. Lt A. SHERLOC)

NAME....KUMATSU YOKO

NO.....YOKOSUKA 31,542 .

RANK.....^{Petty officer.}~~7.0.~~ (third class)

BRANCH OF SERVICE...Naval Landing Party

PLACE OF BIRTH....KANAGAWA

2.9.15. DATE OF BIRTH.....22 Sep 1915

EDUCATION.....KANAGAWA. Primary School (6 years)

Jan 35. CIVIL OCCUPATION....Farming until joining Navy in January 1935
as 4th class seaman.

LANGUAGES.....A few words of English

NEXT OF KIN.... Father - KUMATSU NAKAJI

ADDRESS.....KANAGAWA KEN
ASHIGAWA
YUGAWA BASHI

M or SINGLE.....Single

P/W ADDRESS.....As above

FAMILY.....Bros and sisters- seven - and mother and father.

WHERE CAPTURED....LILOHOA - WAHAHUBA - area (inland).
P/W ambushed by patrol 17 Bde.

8.10.42 WHEN CAPTURED.....1000 hrs L. 28.10.42.

MEDICAL CONDITION..Fair (?septic leg)

I.Os ASSESS.....Fair education talked freely after first half
hour - reliable.

June 1939 First saw action at Shipwreck Island (KAINAN TO)
where he stayed for nine months returning to YOKOSUKA.

March 40 Japan in March 1940.

0.5.42 P/W remained in Japan until 20 May 1942 and on this date sailed
7.5.42 for SAIPAN on the BRAZIL MARU arriving at SAIPAN on 27.5.42.

0.8.42 P/W remained in SAIPAN training in landing
operations until Aug 20 1942, and on this date he sailed by the
KINJU MARU for an unknown destination ? MILNE BAY area arriving
9.8.42 on 29.8.42 where he landed with the YASUDA NAVAL LANDING PARTY
possibly two companies :-

His own Company (YOSHAKA COY) and possibly
the (SUZUKI COY). P/W was of the opinion that only two companies
of this unit was in the convoy.

He had no knowledge of the HAYASHI BUTAI.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

- 2 -

Details of the YASUDA BUTAI (?BATTALION) attached.

P/Ws orders were to attack all houses and kill all the white people.

The landing was made from the KINJU MARU by M.L.C. P/W thought there were 4 or 5 of these but did not know how many each held.

31.8.42

He first saw white soldiers on 31.8.42 and kept under cover until he was captured.

He also stated the uniform with his two stripes ? ^{Petty} Warrant officer was left on the ship and they changed into an ordinary uniform with his name only on it. (P/W present uniform).

He saw natives here but did not speak to them, and lived on coconuts etc.

PAY.. P/W y//45 per month £4.10.0 at par.

Lt-Col YASUDA (GHOSA) did not land with the party.

EQUIPMENT. Each man had a rifle and about 30 rounds of amm.

There were one M/G to each Pl but P/W did not know how much amm was carried.

CASUALTIES.. He was of opinion that casualties were very heavy. P/W also stated that he had seen two dead Jap sailors two days ago-shot.

AIR..... He had only seen one A/C during the voyage that being near Japan when he sailed.

No A/C were sighted at SAIPAN. The next time he saw planes were enemy planes at N.G. after he landed.

NAVAL..... There were about four ships in Convoy -(names unknown and two small warships - he did not know what they were. P/W had not seen any battleships -Aero Carriers or cruisers.

He was of opinion that Japan would win the war but could not give any reason.

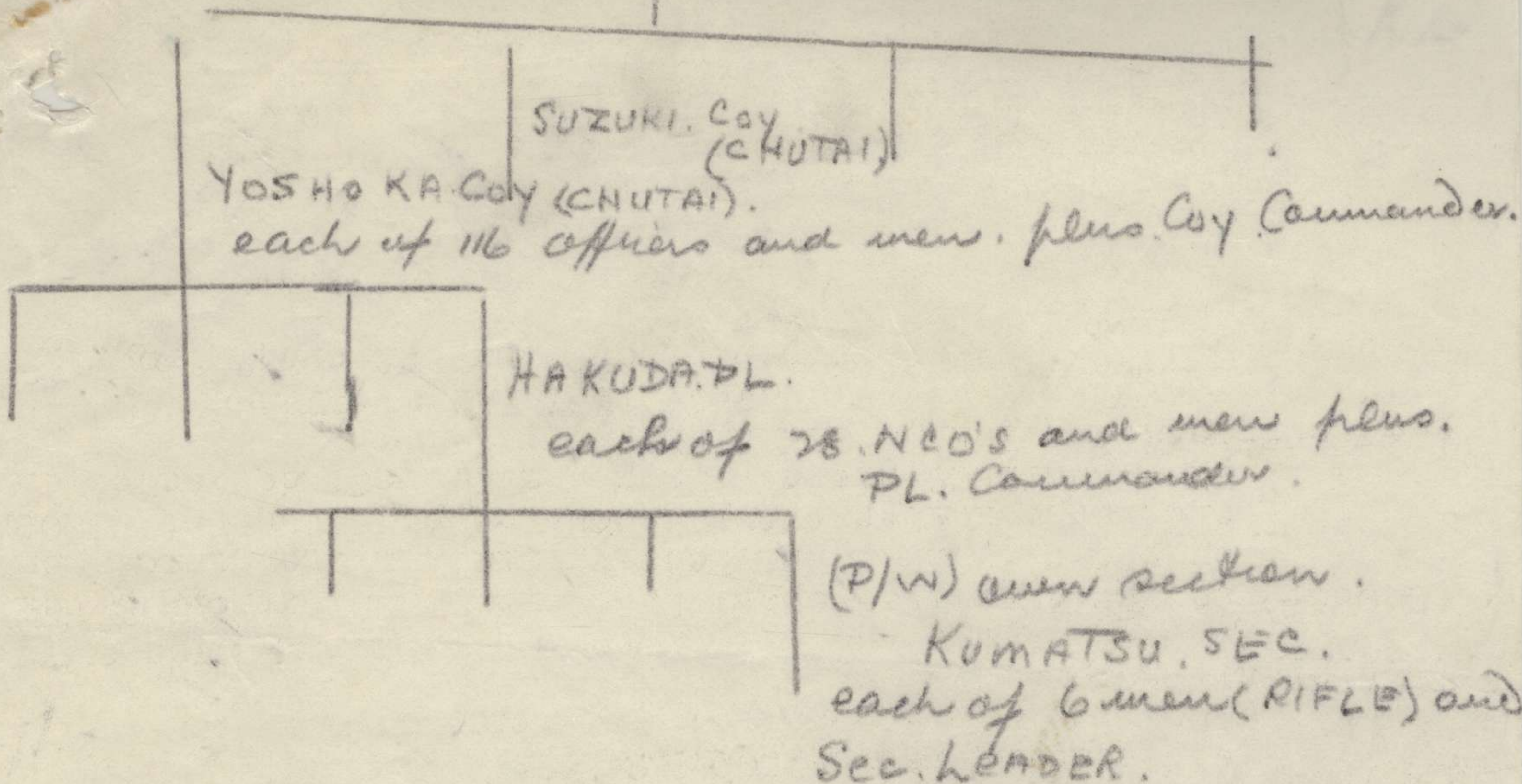
28.10.42 Documents etc taken from four Japanese that were killed during an ambush 28.10.42 by a patrol 17 Bde.

1. Waist hand
2. Tahu (shoe) clips
3. Postal Savings slip
4. Prayers
5. Money orders
6. A Womans hair
7. Wooden Identity Tag AMAKI REI HEI 2nd class seaman
8. YANO BUTAI.
8. Wooden Identity Tag TACHIKURA KOICHI 2nd class KASHI KAN HEISO ? Warrant officer. 2nd Coy (CHUTAI) YANO (BUTAI)
9. CHOSEN No 4617 (probably from the chosen KOREA Labour Corps.
10. Identity Tag NAKAJIMA - 1st class seaman 2nd Bn
11. HANDKERCHIEF (for the neck)

The above articles have been forwarded by KUMATSU
es cort.

Lieut.
Alwyn Thurston
INTERROGATOR.

YASUDA (BUTAI) BN. LT. COL. YASUDA.
(CHUSA).



<u>Names in Section.</u>	
MAGAMI.	CHOBATSU.
TAKASHI.	KENOSHI.
SUZUKI	SEIJIRO
HARA.	YONAGYO.
TAKATA.	YOSHI. KICHI
AZUMA.	YOSHIMOTO.

Interrogator - Capt W.E. HALLION
 Interpreter - Capt J. FORSYTHS.

HQ. N.G.P.
 13 Oct 42.

Personal Details

Name	OBARA, NOBUO
Rank	Naval W.O. (KAIGUN HEISŌCHŌ)
Unit	"YANO" (KURE No 3 SLP)
Call up No	5416
Age	35 yrs.
Enlisted	1924
Education	6 yrs - primary school.

At the beginning of the interrogation the P.W. admitted that he had lied when interrogated at MILNE BAY, but apologised and stated he had been afraid and thought that if he posed as a coolie he would not be bothered.

The P.W. was a good subject and is considered to be above the average intelligence of Jap naval tps.

P.W. stated that :-

1. HISTORY.

- (a) He left KURE (JAPAN) 13 Feb 42, on the "AZUMASA MARU" accompanied by the "GOYA MARU", and carrying the "YANO" unit with a total strength of 1100 men.
- (b) The convoy arrived in TRUK towards the end of Feb and carried out landing exercises for about one month, then proceeded to RABAU.
- (c) Early in May the "GOYA MARU" accompanied by 12 other ships left RABAU for an attack on MORESBY, but owing to unfavourable conditions and bombing attacks, returned to RABAU arriving 9 May.
- (d) On the evening of 9 May P.W. proceeded to KAVIENG and remained until 27 Aug, returned to RABAU 28 Aug and departed 1500 hrs same day for RABI, arriving evening 29 Aug.
- (e) The convoy consisted of 3 mine-sweepers carrying 800 men of KURE 3 SLP, (YANO unit) escorted by 2 destroyers. The force carried, comprised the TAKANURA, MARUYAMA and MAKINURA coys, plus att tps.
- (f) Immediately after landing the "YANO" unit advanced into the jungle and took up concealed posns, rested during the day, and advanced again at night. After the unsuccessful attempt to capture the strip near RABI, the unit split up into small gps and hid in the jungle.
- (g) On the 12 Sep when the expected rescue ships failed to appear, P.W. with 5 others made off into the hills in an endeavour to reach BUNA where they had heard there were Jap Air units. P.W. was armed with a pistol and the others had rifles. After having encountered an Australian patrol P.W. was left alone, and on 6 Oct entered a native hut for food but was reported to an Australian patrol, who captured him approx 5 mls along route 7.

JCM/WEM (17/10)

P.W. No 9 MOST SECRET

M.Q. 7 Aust Inf Bde,
17 Oct 42.

Subject : INTERROGATION REPORT OF JAP P.W.

9 Aust Inf Bn
25 Aust Inf Bn
61 Aust Inf Bn

Herewith report of interrogation of Naval
W.O. OBARA, NOBUO, Comd 4 pl 1 Coy YAND Unit (Kure No 3 S.L.P.)
Captured MILNE BAY 7 Oct 42.

2. On being questioned at MILNE BAY prisoner
had declared he was a coolie. His own diary proved that he had
been lying.

3. This is another illustration of the
importance of sending back rapidly all captured documents.

ACK.

J. J. Mahoney
Maj.
Bde Maj. 7 Aust Inf Bde.

11 May Land equipment set about dispositions.
1 Jul Visit CELEBES.
3 " Visit JAURU ISLAND.
28 " CELEBES LOOKOUT ?
1 Aug Egt Training
7 " TULAGI. From the morning there is a battle.
At this place we set about our fighting stations and
come under the command of No. 1 Coy leader.
Result of battle. Enemy battleships - 1
Cruisers - 4
Destroyers - 11
23 " Prepare to move.
26 " Prepare to depart.
27 " 1900 Depart KAVIENG
28 " 0700 Enter port RABAUZ.
1600 Depart for RABI.
29 " 2100 Land.
30 " 1700 Battle situation not clear.
7 Sep Position of our own tps not clear.
(This entry covers a period of from about the 4th & 11 th)
12 " Cross mountain and head for BUNA.
14 " P.M. Reach coast.
En Route 1630 Enemy guerilla warfare..
From 1930 canoe.
16 Sep (BUNA) Guerilla warfare.
1 Oct 1300 Guerilla warfare.
YAMA OKA

(Sgd) N.J. SPARNOR Lieut.
TRANSLATOR N.C.F.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY BELONGING TO P.W. OHAKA, NOBUO CAPTURED

MILNE BAY - 6 Oct 42

17 Feb 1445 SIF assemble
After receiving instruction from O.C. we depart.

18 " 0700 Depart KURE.

19 " On board ship No 3 disposition.
A.M. Disposition schooling.
P.M. Disposition schooling.
At night " "

22 " 1130 Sight SAIPAN
1400 Pass SAIPAN on our right.

23 " A.M.
P.M. Disposition schooling.
At night.
(RAICHI KYŌIN)

24 " Enter Port TRUCK Island.
Before entering Port we are attacked by torpedos from
enemy submarine.

25 " Go for walk on land.
Disposition schooling.

8 Mar (TRUK) On board ship. At night view pictures. (KATSUDO
KENBETSU).

19 " Training on board ship.
Respirator...?.....

23 " Prepare to depart
1145 Depart for RABAU.

26 " 0800 Enter Port RABAU.

28 " Land equipment. Set about No 3 Dispositions.

1 Apr Equipment training.

30 " 0730 Leave port
GAVUTU ISLAND.

3 May Carry out successful landing in face of enemy.

4 " Land at TULAGI about 1330. On account of air attack
casualties, however no deaths.
1500 Depart.

5 " Our objective is MORESBY.

6 " Link up with transport ships.

9 " On account of operations enter port RABAU.
Depart.

10 " Enter PORT KAVIENG
Land.

1. ORGANIZATION:

"YANO" unit (KURE No 3 SLP)

Total strength:- 1100

Comd - YANO, MINONU

No 1 Coy TAKAMURA unit. No 2 Coy MAKIMURA unit No 3 Coy MARUYAMA unit.

Att units:- Pay, medical, engre, tpt and comm.

NOTE:- P.W. is comd No 4 Pl - No 1 Coy.

"YANO" unit receives orders from No 8 Base HQ - RABAUL.

3. EQUIPMENT: P.W. had no knowledge of a 7.7mm rifle and stated his pl carried 6.6mm rifles, T"11" LMGs and model by MGs. Bullet proof vests are rarely seen and nothing was known of "Tommy" guns.

4. TRAINING:

(a) Men of 21-22 yrs of age are mostly called up for service in the Navy, although men below 20 yrs can voluntarily enlist. Tng is for a period of 6 months before they are considered ready for combat.

During peace time, recruits normally serve for 2-3 yrs and then placed on the reserve.

(b) The "YANO" unit has not received any special tng in the offensive use of gas, tng being restricted to respirator drill. The prisoner's pl did not bring respirators from RABAUL as they were considered too heavy, and jungle conditions were unsuitable for the use of gas.

5. GENERAL:

(a) P.W. stated all O.R's of his pl wore wooden identity discs showing unit, name and rank, as well as name tags sewn on the pocket of the jacket.

(b) Has no knowledge of KURE No 1, 2, or 4 SLP and did not understand significance of number.

(c) Portion of "SASEBO" No 5 SLP was to land at TAUPOTA on 25/26 Aug but P.W. had no knowledge of why the landing was not carried out.

(d) No special orders re treatment of Aust. Ps.W. were issued. They are not killed unless they resist capture or attempt to escape.

Due to the disgrace incurred in having become a prisoner the P.W. does not wish to return to JAPAN.

Interrogator - Capt W.E. HALLION
 Interpreter - Capt J. FORSYTHE.

HQ. N.G.F.
 13 Oct 42.

Personal Details

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Rank	Naval W.O. (KAIGUN HEISŌCHŌ)
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2. ORGANIZATION:

"YANO" unit (KURE No 3 SLF)

Total strength:- 1100

Comd - YANO, MINORU

No 1 Coy No 2 Coy No 3 Coy
TAKAMURA unit. MAKIMURA unit MARUYAMA unit.

Att units:- Pay, medical, engrs, tpt and comm.

NOTE:- P.W. is comd No 4 Pl - No 1 Coy.

"YANO" unit receives orders from No 8 Base HQ - RABAUL.

3. EQUIPMENT: P.W. had no knowledge of a 7.7mm rifle and stated his pl carried 6.6mm rifles, T"11" LMGs and model by MGs. Bullet proof vests are rarely seen and nothing was known of "Tommy" guns.

4. TRAINING:

(a) Men of 21-22 yrs of age are mostly called up for service in the Navy, although men below 20 yrs can voluntarily enlist. Tng is for a period of 6 months before they are considered ready for combat.

During peace time, recruits normally serve for 2-3 yrs and then placed on the reserve.

(b) The "YANO" unit has not received any special tng in the offensive use of gas, tng being restricted to respirator drill. The prisoner's pl did not bring respirators from RABAUL as they were considered too heavy, and jungle conditions were unsuitable for the use of gas.

5. GENERAL:

(a) P.W. stated all O.R's of his pl wore wooden identity discs showing unit, name and rank, as well as name tags sewn on the pocket of the jacket.

(b) Has no knowledge of KURE No 1, 2, or 4 SLF and did not understand significance of number.

(c) Portion of "SASEBO" No 5 SLF was to land at TAUPOTA on 25/26 Aug but P.W. had no knowledge of why the landing was not carried out.

(d) No special orders re treatment of Aust. Ps.W. were issued. They are not killed unless they resist capture or attempt to escape.

Due to the disgrace incurred in having become a prisoner the P.W. does not wish to return to JAPAN.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY BELONGING TO P.W. OHAKA, NOBUO CAPTURED

MILNE BAY - 6 Oct 42

17 Feb 1445 SIF assemble
After receiving instruction from O.C. we depart.

18 " 0700 Depart KURE.

19 " On board ship No 3 disposition.
A.M. Disposition schooling.
P.M. Disposition schooling.
At night " "

22 " 1130 Sight SAIPAN
1400 Pass SAIPAN on our right.

23 " A.M.
P.M. Disposition schooling.
At night.
(BAICHI KYŌIKU)

24 " Enter Port TRUCK Island.
Before entering Port we are attacked by torpedos from
enemy submarine.

25 " Go for walk on land.
Disposition schooling.

8 Mar (TRUK) On board ship. At night view pictures. (KATSUDO
KENBTSU).

19 " Training on board ship.
Respirater...?.....

23 " Prepare to depart
1145 Depart for RABAUŁ.

26 " 0800 Enter Port RABAUŁ.

28 " Land equipment. Set about No 3 Dispositions.

1 Apr Equipment training.

30 " 0730 Leave port
GAVUTU ISLAND.

3 May Carry out successful landing in face of enemy.

4 " Land at TULAGI about 1330. On account of air attack
casualties, however no deaths.
1500 Depart.

5 " Our objective is MORESBY.

6 " Link up with transport ships.

9 " On account of operations enter port RABAUŁ.
Depart.

10 " Enter PORT KAVIENG
Land.

11 May Land equipment set about dispositions.
1 Jul Visit CELEBES.
3 " Visit JAURU ISLAND.
28 " CELEBES LOOKOUT ?
1 Aug Egt Training
7 " TULAGI. From the morning there is a battle.
At this place we set about our fighting stations and
come under the command of No. 1 Coy leader.
Result of battle. Enemy battleships - 1
Cruisers - 4
Destroyers - 11
23 " Prepare to move.
26 " Prepare to depart.
27 " 1900 Depart KAVIENG
28 " 0700 Enter port RABAU.
1600 Depart for RABI.
29 " 2100 Land.
30 " 1700 Battle situation not clear.
7 Sep Position of our own tps not clear.
(This entry covers a period of from about the 4th & 11 th)
12 " Cross mountain and head for BUNA.
14 " P.M. Reach coast.
En Route 1630 Enemy guerilla warfare..
From 1930 canoe.
16 Sep (BUNA) Guerilla warfare.
1 Oct 1300 Guerilla warfare.
YAMA OKA

(Sgd) N.J. SPARNOR Lieut.
TRANSLATOR N.G.F.

MI/P1/1

P.W. No 10

FILE

Preliminary Interrogation of Jap P.W. - MILNE FORCE No 13

HQ L.P.
18 Oct 42

Interrogators - Capt J. FORSYTHE
Sgt W. HIROSHIMA
(U.S. Army)

Personal Details

Name - SAKAMA, TSUNEKICHI
 Rank - 1st Class Seaman
 Unit - YASUDA (YOKOSUKA No 5 SLP) No 2 Coy, No 4 Pl.
 Call Up No - 8942
 Enlisted - YOKOSUKA 27 Jan 42
 Age - 38
 Civil Occupation - Railway Worker

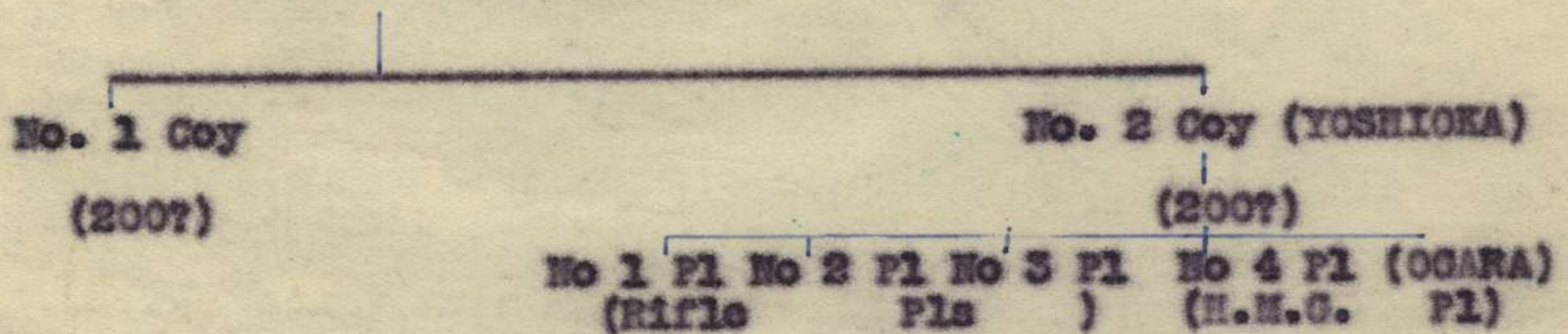
P.W. stated that :-

1. HISTORY

- (a) He left YOKOSUKA about 15 May on board an unknown ship; they were joined by 3 or 4 other ships en route and proceeded to GUAM, arriving about end of June. Landed in RABAUl end of Aug. "KINRYU MARU" was sunk whilst at RABAUl.
- (b) Left RABAUl afternoon 2 Sep on board a destroyer and proceeded to MILNE BAY. Only 20 men of YASUDA Unit were on board. Their task was to land supplies. They were landed by a diesel engine boat from the destroyer. The destroyer did not evacuate wounded and returned immediately to RABAUl. No shelling took place. On 4 Sep the party disbanded and PW with several others took to the hills. Little food was available and no help was received from natives. The PW, with PW 14, was captured near DUADUA by party of 61 Bn 17 Oct.

2. ORGANIZATION

YASUDA UNIT (YOKOSUKA No. 5 S.L.F.)



3. GENERAL

- (a) PW knew of SASEBO No 5 S.L.F. although he had no knowledge of its movements.
- (b) All names have been deleted from ships.
- (c) Has no knowledge of Comds, other than own unit.

VI/PL/1

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP PW - MILNE FORCE No 14

HQ NOF
18 Oct 42.

Interrogators - Capt J. FORSYTHE
Sgt. W. HIROSHIMA
(U.S. Army)

Personal Details

Name - KATSUKURA, KANEMITSU
Rank - 1st Class Seaman
Unit - YASUDA (YOKOSUKA No 5 S.L.F.) No 2 Coy No 4 Pl.
Call up No - ?
Age - 36
Civil Occupation - Employer - Electricity Coy.

PW stated that:-1. HISTORY

- (a) He left JAPAN 15 May on BRAZIL MARU and accompanied by two mine-sweepers moved to SAIPAN where they stayed 2 nights and then proceeded to GUAM. The "BRAZIL MARU" carried about 1000 men of the X YASUDA and OTA units. The YASUDA unit consisted of 2 coys and a bty of 4 AA guns.
- (b) No 1 Coy left GUAM for an unknown destination, while No 2 Coy remained about 10 days and left 28 May for MIDWAY IS. The convoy was attacked by bombers and returned to GUAM arriving 15 Jun.
- (c) PW on "KINRYU MARU" left GUAM and proceeded to TRUK where the ship remained in harbour for one night, and then moved to RABAU. L.
- (d) On 27 Aug, convoy consisting of 3 tpts and 9 destroyers left RABAU. L. for GUADALCANAL. On 27 Aug, "KINRYU MARU" was sunk; and of the 200 men on board about 30 were killed. The PW was picked up by a minesweeper and arrived back at RABAU. L. 1 Sep.
- (e) The main body of No 2 Coy left RABAU. L. 1 Sep, approx 40 who were sick remained behind in hospital. Of those left behind 20 were selected to take supplies to MILNE BAY. The party, on board destroyer YAYOI proceeded to MILNE BAY and were landed by a diesel engine motor boat from the destroyer. The destroyer did not evacuate wounded and returned direct to RABAU. L.
- (f) On 4 Sep the party encountered Aust tps and were put to flight. PW with 2 others made off into the hills. They had no particular destination and did not know direction of BUNA. His one aim was to remain alive. PW saw no natives, and had little food. He was captured 17 Oct near DUADUA by a party of 61 Bn. (Natives reported the presence of the 2 Japs and guided the party to the hut where the PsW were located. Other natives had been dispersed about the area to see that the Japs did not escape.)

2. ORGANIZATION

- (a) PW stated same organisation as PW 13.

3. GENERAL

- (a) No special orders have been received regarding treatment of PsW, and PW had no knowledge of atrocities perpetrated against prisoners.
- (b) Believes some Aust PsW are at RABAU. L., although they are usually sent to JAPAN.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HQ Milne Force,

K146

28 Oct 42.

SUBJECT:

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.

MILNE FORCE NO 15.

NEW GUINEA FORCE.

1. Herewith report on preliminary interrogation of above numbered P.W. captured K.B. MISSION area 24 Oct 42.

G. A. CLOWES Maj-Gen.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

Copies to :-

7 Aust Inf Bde ✓
17 Aust Inf Bde
18 Aust Inf Bde

I.O. register

7 copies typed

*9
25
61
Comd
Bm
I file (2)*

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.

MILNE FORCE NO 15.

Interrogators - Lt A. SHERLOCK.
(Assisted by RIKO CHUNG)

NAME.....SEN SAIKEI.

NO.....P/W number was at one time attached to his tunic but he does not know what it was.

RANK.....He has no rank.

PLACE OF BIRTH...ANJO GUN
ANJO MIN
CHO GIRI.

AGE.....P/W thinks he is about 31 years of age. Does not speak Japanese. Usually lives in the mountains and he is just a coolie. (RODOSHA)

P/W also states that he was married seven years ago but had no children - he was put on the same boat as RIKO CHUNG and his movements were the same.

He is unable to read or write and was captured on 24 Oct 42 in a hut by a native woman and a boy of 12 years of age.

RIKO CHUNG saw P/W once while eating but they parted looking for food and he did not see him again.

A. Murray Sherlock

Lieut.
INTERROGATOR.

PW-13

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(Sgd) Alwyn SHERLOCK

Lieut.
INTERROGATOR.

REG FILE P.W. No. 19.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HQ Milne Force,

K147

28 Oct 42.

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.

MILNE FORCE NO 16

NEW GUINEA FORCE.

1. Herewith report on preliminary interrogation of above numbered P.W. captured between WANADALA and AHIOMA 26 Oct 42.

C. A. CLOWES
Maj-Gen.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

Copies to :-

- 7 Aust Inf Bde ✓
- 17 Aust Inf Bde
- 18 Aust Inf Bde

I.O. quote

7 copies - as per K146

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.
MILNE FORCE NO 16.

Interrogator - Lt A.SHERLOCK.

NAME....RIKO CHUNG

NO4675

RANK.....No rank

UNIT.....LABOUR UNIT.

Prisoner wearing old tunic and trousers which he got from a dead Jap soldier.

1917 P/W was born in 1917 at

KOREA
KAIKEIDO
UNJOGUN
SANCHUKOMEN
430.

EDUCATION....Educated at (SAN CHU KORYOSU FUSO GAKKO) where he stayed for four years and then went to (CHOSAN KORYOSU FUSO GAKKO) for a further period of 2 years.

CIVIL OCCUPATION. Agricultural farmer.

LANGUAGES Speaks Japanese as well as KOREAN.

NEXT OF KIN (Wife) and two children (boy and girl) live at the above address.

P/W has 1 sister and 1 brother.

26.10.42 P/W was captured by natives on 26 Oct 42 while resting in a hut between WANADALA & AHIOMA.

He appeared to be very intelligent and talks freely with very little time for the Japanese.

21.7.42 P/W was taken from his house by Japanese soldiers on and put on board the BRAZIL MARU (about 8000 tons) at FUSAN along with 2000 other Koreans and sailed for TRUK arriving there on the
1/8.42 At TRUK they were split up into many parties, he and 300 others
2.8.42 were shipped to KAVIENG on the KINYU MARU (about 5000 tons) arriving there on the 2.8.42.

23.8.42 P/W worked at unloading (food) mostly rice for about three weeks, and left by the NANKAI MARU (about 7-8000 tons) for RABAUl arriving there on 23.8.42

26.8.42 From RABAUl he sailed for an unknown destination (SAMARI) (P/W pointed to this town on the map) arriving in the early morning of 26.8.42.

With the convoy were a few other ships and about 7 or 8 M.L.C.

His job was to unload stores but the (fighting and bombing started as he thought - by the Americans) and from then on he just made his way inland - parties of twos and 3 getting what ever cover they could.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

- 2 -

The 300 Koreans landed with the HAYASHI UNIT (BUTAI) which was about 800 strong. Casualties were very heavy.

P/W also stated that he was not paid any money by the Japs - all he received was his food, and on many occasions they were slapped across the face and treated pretty bad generally.

He was at one time with 7 others but these were killed by (he thought Americans) and natives, and he was finally captured while resting.

P/W was of the opinion that the Japs did not like bombing - (he saw this in RABAU).

His father was a farmer, but now dead but his mother YIN CHENG CHUNG was still alive at the above address.

He informed me that most Korean surnames started with REI KIN or POKU.

I commented on the good condition of his finger nails but he informed me that he had a knife right uptill the time of his capture.

Counting 1 to 10 in KOREAN is :-

1 HANNA	2 TOOL	3 SHU	4 NAI	5 TASO
6 YOSO	7 ILLGO	8 YOTOL	9 AWO	10 YORI YU

He also explained that KOREA was divided into 13 Prefectures. (Map attached)

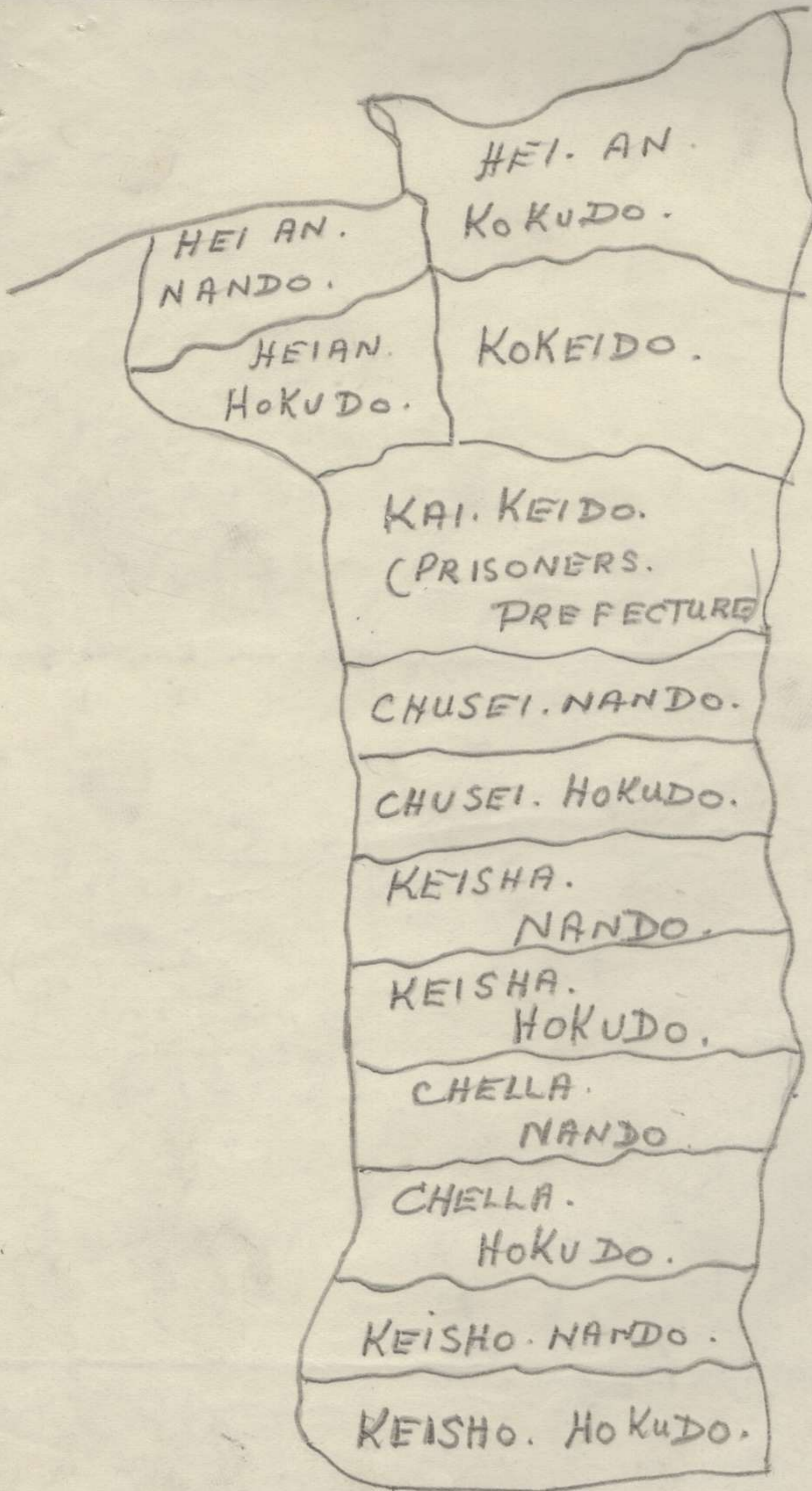
P/W expressed a desire to be kept separate from Jap Ps/W.

P/W did not know anything of the 10th Pioneer Unit.

As a check on Ps/W address I got him to write a letter home. Letters attached.

Henry Shelton
Lieut.

INT.



P.W. NO 12

SUBJECT : PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.

MILNE FORCE NO 16

Oct 26 1943
27

Interrogator - Lt A. SHERLOCK.

NAME.... RIKO CHUNG

NO..... 4075

RANK.... No rank

UNIT.... LABOUR UNIT.

Prisoner wearing old tunic and trousers which he got from a dead Jap soldier.

1917

P/W was born in 1917 at

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UNJOGUN
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1.8.42

At TRUK they were split up into many parties, he and 3000 others were shipped to KAVIRING on the KINYU MARU (about 5000 tons)

2.8.42

arriving there on the 2.8.42.

23.8.42

P/W worked at unloading (food) mostly rice for about three weeks, and left by the NANKAI MARU (about 7-8000 tons) for RABAUL arriving there on 23.8.42.

26.8.42

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With the convoy were a few other ships and about 7 or 8 M.L.C.

His job was to unload stores but the (fighting and bombing started as he thought - by the Americans) and from then on he just made his way inland - parties of twos and 3 getting what ever cover they could.

The 300 Koreans landed with the HAYASHI UNIT (BUTAI) which was about 800 strong. Casualties were very heavy.

P/W also stated that he was not paid any money by the Japs - all he received was his food, and on many occasions they were slapped across the face and treated pretty bad generally.

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P/W was of the opinion that the Japs did not like bombing - (he saw this in RABAU).

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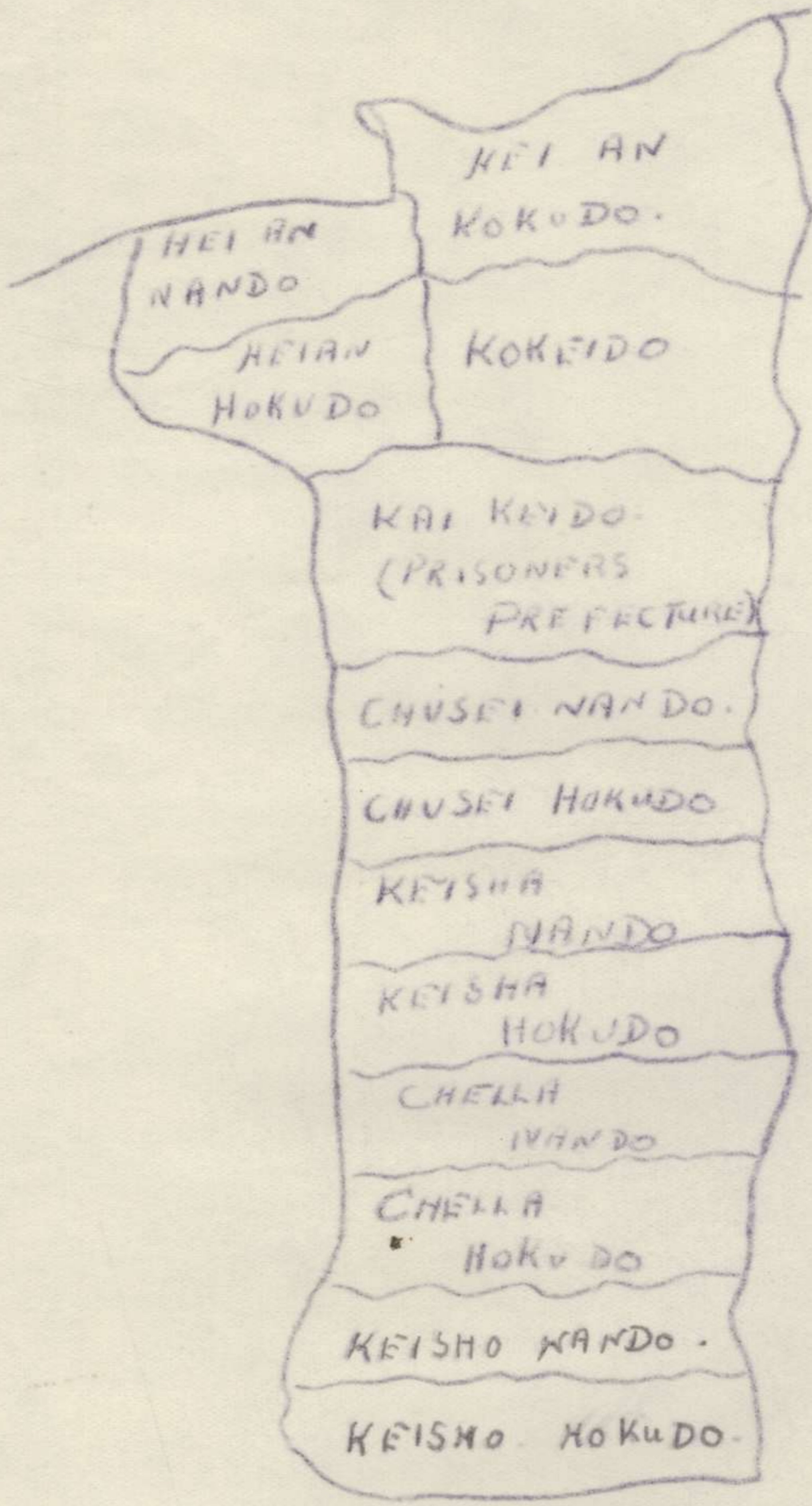
He also explained that KOREA was divided into 13 Prefectures. (Map attached)

P/W expressed a desire to be kept separate from Jap Ps/W.

P/W did not know anything of the 10th Pioneer Unit.

As a check on Ps/W address I got him to write a letter home. Letters attached.

(Sgd) Alwyn SHERLOCK
Lieut.
INT.



SUBJECT : PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.

MILNE FORCE NO 16

Interrogator - Lt A. SHERLOCK.

NAME..... RIKO CHUNG

NO..... 4675

RANK..... No rank

UNIT..... LABOUR UNIT.

Prisoner wearing old tunic and trousers which he got from a dead Jap soldier.

1917

P/W was born in 1917 at

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6 YOSO	7 ILLGO	8 YOTOL	9 AWO	10 YORI YU

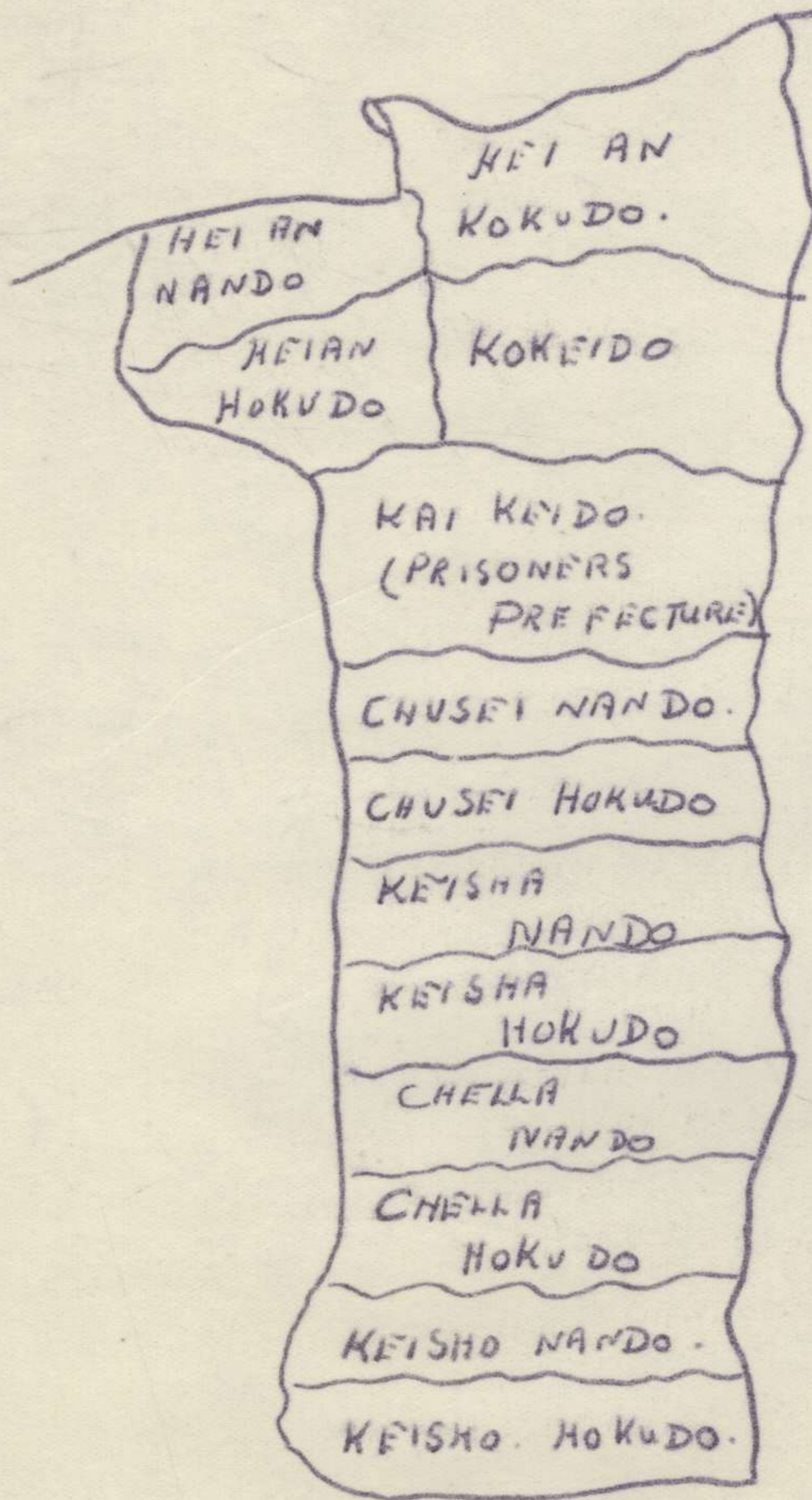
He also explained that KOREA was divided into 13 Prefectures. (Map attached)

P/W expressed a desire to be kept separate from Jap Ps/W.

P/W did not know anything of the 10th Pioneer Unit.

As a check on Ps/W address I got him to write a letter home. Letters attached.

(Sgd) Alwyn SHERLOCK
Lieut.
INT.



PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP PW MILNE FORCE No 16

HQ HG Force
29 Oct 42
01991

Interrogators - Lieut DRAKE P.N.
Lieut THOMAS P.G.
Capt BENJAMIN A.L.

1. PERSONAL DETAILS -

Name : RIKO OHUNG
Rank : Nil
Unit : Labour Corps (KOREAN) att to KURE No 5 S.L.P.
Age : 25 years
Call up No : 4675
Civil occupation : Farmer (also worked in gold mine)
Religion : Nil
Education : Primary school, 6th standard.
Married - 2 children.
Wife's address - KOREA
KEI-IKEDO
ANJOUN
CANCEUKOMEN
SHIKSONRI

2. Brief History of movements -

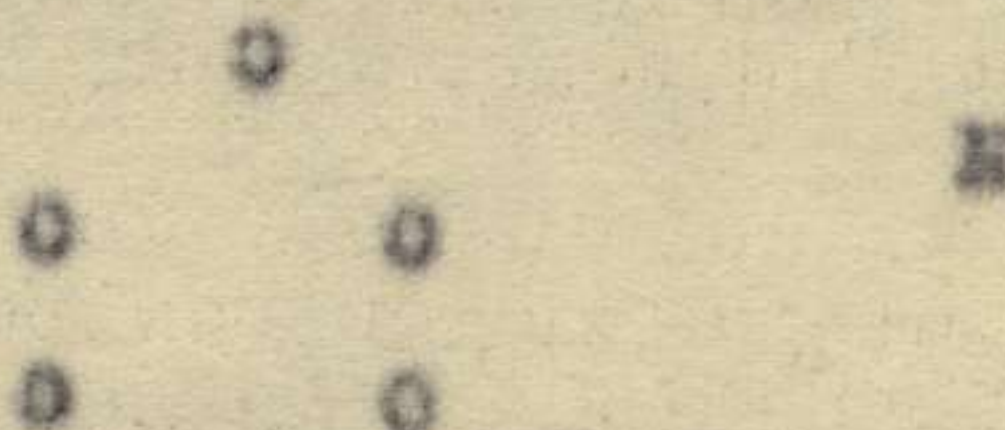
- 18 Jul 42 - Conscribed into Labour Corps; taken to FUSAN by rail.
- 21 Jul 42 - Left FUSAN in party of 2000 KOREANS on BRAZIL MARU.
- 23 Jul 42 - Arrived TRUK. Ship unescorted. Did not leave ship until transferred to KIMRYU MARU.
- 29 Jul 42 - Sailed on KIMRYU MARU in party of 450 KOREANS for KAVIENG. Remainder of original party split up into groups to be sent to other centres. KIMRYU MARU was unescorted.
- 3 Aug 42 - Arrived KAVIENG; party stayed there 16 days on drome construction work.
- 19 Aug 42 - Left for RABAUL on steamer about 3000 tons (PW states name forgotten) Again unescorted.
- 20 Aug 42 - Arrived RABAUL, stayed until 23 Aug. No duties, this period.
- 25 Aug 42 - Left on NANKAI MARU tonnage approx 3000. Party now consisted of only 300 KOREANS, 150 having been left behind in RABAUL. NANKAI MARU was in convoy of about 10 ships of which one was KINAI MARU, rest being warships.- thought to be destroyers. 800 Jap soldiers belonging to HAYASHI unit in this convoy. PW thinks this unit same as KURE 5 S.L.P., as he himself had this latter name marked on breast patch of his tunic.

3. MILNE BAY LANDING - Whole party landed night 25 Aug by MLC. PW thinks 10 of these craft used, each carrying 40 men. These MLCs were brought from RABAUL and carried on deck - two on PW's ship, NANKAI MARU. The 800 marines were landed first, the KOREANS being left to unload material. Having had no military training PW could give no info as to comd, organization or eqpt. Stated one tank landed on KINAI MARU. PW had not seen any others, but stated this one was not big. Also saw 2 W/T sets carried by a party which consisted of 10. (This was later when PW was in jungle). Saw 2 or 3 trucks and a few bicycles, saw no weapons larger than MGs. KOREAN coolies were all unarmed. During strafing by 7 A/Cs at daybreak, PW stated all sup destroyed and by casualties caused. Tps and coolies dispersed into the hills. Asked to explain why Jap soldiers ran away PW stated he saw nothing strange in this as even offrs did likewise.

4. KAVIENG

- (a) Drome - PW stated this was a new drome and NOT an extension of an old one. Work had already been undertaken prior to his arrival; but drome area was very extensive and PW thought construction would not be finally completed until Mar 43. Shows RAAF target map (K 2 of Jun 42) and target photo (K 2 of 14 May 42) of KAVIENG, PW identified drome as being identical in posn with that shown in those documents. He sketched a dispersal loop which he had seen under construction at NW end of runway. PW had worked on gravelling of runway. Before he left KAVIENG one fighter made a test landing on drome; and PW heard that other A/C were expected there soon.

(b) AA - PW marked on target map KB posns of 2 AA guns, 1 on either side of, and about midway along, runway. Gun on northern side marked in clearing, other gun in timbered area. PW also sketched layout of 5 AA gun posns near harbour front in town area. All appeared to be between Govt wharf and northern jetty. Guns were at intervals of about 150 yds from each other and set out in following pattern:-



PW had not seen AA gun before but thought they were big ones.

(c) TPE - PW saw only naval personnel at KAVIENG, no army tps. Naval tps were dispersed mainly along harbour front.

(d) A/C - Apart from single fighter above mentioned, PW saw only 2 P/Ps in harbour. Did not see or hear of any A/C being unshipped at KAVIENG in crates. (For assembly)

5. GENERAL

PW stated that no fixed rate of pay was stipulated when he was conscripted but he was promised good pay and plenty of food. No money, however, had been given him and he was unaware if anything had been paid to his wife, as he was told it would be. Had written 3 letters, but no reply received or any news of his wife or relatives. KOREAN coolies were driven hard by the Japs. Even private soldiers would sometimes cuff them.

(Sgd) A.L. BENJAMIN Capt,
OSI NG Force.

WAR DIARY

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W. MILNE FORCE No 18

HQ NG Force,
9 Nov 42.

Interrogators - Lieut DRAKE P.N.
Lieut THOMAS F.G.
Capt POCHON A.

1. Personal Details.

Name : KOMATSU TETSUO
Rank : 1st class stoker (Stretcher bearer)
Unit : TSUKIOKA BUTAI - (Part of SASEBO NO 5 S.L.P.)
Age : 26 years
Call up No: 20841 (No 18 on patch sewn inside tunic)
Civil occupation : Blacksmith
Religion - Shinto
Education : Primary School, and 1 year Secondary School.
Unmarried : Has one brother MARAO, and 2 sisters.
Address of next of kin : (Mother) ;
Mrs KOMATSU TSUNO
106 INASA CHO 3 CHOME
NAGASAKI

2. Brief History of movements.

1939 - Conscripted into Navy at HAGASAKI and sent to SASEBO.
Has been in navy ever since.

Aug 41 - Left JAPAN from SASEBO on HAKOZAKI MARU (unescorted) for TRUK.
First stated stayed there only one month, but later corrected this to
several months. Practiced landing operations there.

Left TRUK for RABAU, again on HAKOZAKI MARU accompanied by KIROTA
SAN MARU, and escorted by 2 sloops or corvettes. Refused to give dates.
Stated stayed in RABAU 16 days, but did not land, - transferred to KINRYU
MARU and proceeded to BUNA - approximately 300 men total, incl 14 stretcher
bearers. Stated were bombed whilst at RABAU and again just before enter-
ing BUNA, but no damage or casualties caused. No escort to BUNA. Stayed
BUNA some time, thinks about 3 months, - engaged in digging trenches and
defence works. Left BUNA in landing craft (DAIHATSU) for GOODENOUGH IS
unescorted. Stated were none of our troops there when they landed. Still
refused to give any dates.

3. Equipment.

Troops including the 14 stretcher bearers were all armed with rifles, -
P.W. states there were 5 MMG's and 6 LMG's. Saw no arty, mortars, tks,
or bicycles. One W/T set was carried (Receiver were left behind at BUNA.

4. Personnel.

Comd TSUBIGKA was in charge and accompanied the tps to BUNA and
GOODENOUGH. P.W. did not know names of coy offrs, or names of capts of
steamers on which travelled.

Asked re Surgeon Lieut TOYOSHIMA FUNIO (see captured document No 44)
P.W. stated that he knew and was aware that he had been wounded in the
knee. In diary taken from P.W. appeared the name of INOMATA KYO, and P.W.
stated this person was originally owner of diary and is the 1st class
stoker referred to as being on board an A/C carr.

5. General

Asked how the party expected to leave the island after their landing
craft had been destroyed, P.W. stated had heard that a destroyer
(MOCHIZUKI) was expected. Same never arrived and there had been no
mention of any submarine coming to their rescue. P.W. had not heard of the
destroyer ISOKAZK having been sunk, but whilst in BUNA had heard of the
sinking of the KINRYU MARU. P.W. had knowledge of 3 men leaving in a
canoe for BUNA to obtain help, stated left 10 days after landing, and did
not return. Object of landing at GOODENOUGH was unknown to P.W., who had
also not heard that 200 of the party had escaped to FERGUSON IS. P.W.
stated did not know where remainder of SASEBO No 5 S.L.P. are at present,
but was definite were not at BUNA and thought were still at RABAU, - did
not think were in RABY.

P.W. stated lived on potatoes and coconuts only, after food ran
out, he became sick and found himself completely isolated, when captured
by some 10 or 15 Australian tps.

P.W. had bitten through his tongue and also endeavoured to gouge

out his eyes in an attempt at suicide, and several times during interrogation, asked to be killed. He heard that P.W's would be killed, but does not believe that Japs kill our P.W's, although has no definite knowledge. Knows that some Australian Ps.W. in RABAUL. Has not received any letters from JAPAN since leaving, and has also not written. Has no desire to return to JAPAN, and wishes to die.

P.W. was unreliable and unwilling to give any info, in addition to which he appeared to have been affected mentally by his experiences. Still has difficulty in talking, owing to the injury to his tongue, but it is probable that further interrogation after recovery would elicit more detailed info.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

FILE

K/62

HQ Milne Force,

7 Nov 42.

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INTERROGATIONS OF JAP P.W.

MILNE FORCE NO 18.

NEW GUINEA FORCE.

1. Herewith reports on preliminary interrogations of
above numbered P.W. captured GOODENOUGH IS 30 Oct 42.

Louison bl

1* Maj-Gen.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

Copies to:

7 Aust Inf Bde ✓
17 Aust Inf Bde
18 Aust Inf Bde

gm

Bde Comd JJ.

I O.

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.

2 Nov 42

M.F. NO 18

Interrogator - Lt. A. SHERLOCK

NAME: KUMATSU

NO: 106

UNIT: FUKUOKA LANDING PARTY (2nd COMPANY?)

30.10.42 CAPTURED P.W. captured GOODENOUGH IS 30 Oct 42.

On arrival at Goodenough Island 1800L I immediately saw PW, who has attempted to gouge his own eyes out and had bitten his tongue so much that he was unable to close his mouth.

Came back to HQ on same boat as PW and he has been admitted to No 1 COS.

The PW made signs also that he wanted to be shot several times. PWs papers and personal belongings were also brought to HQ by me.

A. Sherlock
Lieut.,
INTERROGATOR

Age 26

Been in Navy 3 years

1st class stoker or engineer (KIKAN)

FUKUOKA (BUTAI) Commander Lt-Col (Chusa) FUKUOKA

	•	
	•	
	•	
⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮ (1)	⋮ (2)	⋮ (3) Companies (Chutai)
		Commander Capt TANGATA (TAII)

About 300 strong
This was the only Coy that
landed.

P/W got fever - don't know what happened.

It is very difficult to understand P/W - his tongue is very
much swollen.

Interviewed the M.O. who told me that he had only had liquids and
his tongue was still pretty sore.

Alwyn Sherlock
Lieut
Interrogator

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.

M.F. NO 18.

6 Nov 42.

Interrogator - Lieut A. SHERLOCK.

PLACE OF BIRTH: KYUSHU
NAGASAKI
NASA 106

14.12.16 DATE OF BIRTH: 14 Dec 1916

PARENTS DECEASED.

P/W has two sisters.

SINGLE

EDUCATION. NAGASAKI 6 years.

P/W very unreliable.

P/W would not answer any further questions regarding his unit.

The ~~MO~~ says that the tongue has been bitten thru and it should be much better when the "dead" piece on the side falls off.

A. SHERLOCK

Lieut.
INTERROGATOR.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

file M84
K196

7 copies

HQ MILNE FORCE
7 Nov 42

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP P.W.
MILNE FORCE NO 19

IMPORTANT - (NAVAL)

N.G. FORCE.

Herewith report on preliminary interrogation of above numbered P.W. captured at GOPAIA on 27 Nov 42.

X Would suggest that all papers belonging to this P.W. be translated before interrogation.

BR Ma
Brig
Admin Comd MILNE FORCE

Copy to: 7 Aust Inf Bde }
17 Aust Inf Bde } For infm.
18 Aust Inf Bde }

[Signature]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION JAP P.W. MILNE FORCE NO 19.

(Interrogator A.A.S.)

27 Nov 42 { 1500hrs to 1700 hrs.
 { 1900 2230
28 Nov 42 { 0900 to 1150
 { 1430 to 1600.

NAME HANAKI YOSHISADA
NO SHE SUI 7745
RANK PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS
UNIT YANO BUTAI (UNIT)

27.11.42 WHEN CAPTURED 27.11.42

WHERE " GOPAIA - about half a mile east side of ANIOMA by natives while lying down hiding from an aeroplane which was overhead at the time.

ADDRESS AICHI KEN
 NAGOYA
 AMAGUN
 MIWA MURA 91.

AGE THIRTY-SIX YEARS

CIVIL OCCUPATION - DEPARTMENT STORE
 (MATSUSUKAIA)
 NAGOYA BRANCH

I.O. ASSESSMENT P/W is in good health, talked freely after I explained to him that he was quite safe in our hands.

MIL. HISTORY & MOVEMENTS
PRE S.W.P.A.

8.9.07 P/W was born on 8.9.07 at the above address. This address is also the home of his father and mother who are still alive. He went to a primary school at MIWA for eight years then joined MATSUSUKAIA Department Store where he stayed six years in the foreign clothing department and then joined the NAVY on 1.6.27 as fourth class seaman. Was promoted to third class seaman on 1.12.27 1/12/27 to second class seaman on 1.12.29 1/12/29 to first class seaman on 1.12.31 1/12/31 promoted again to Petty Officer third class on 1.6.36 1/6/36, and placed on the reserve list. He stayed at home farming until he was recalled to the NAVY on 1/12/41.
16.2.42 P/W was training until 16/2/42 and on this date joined the KURE BUTAI (UNIT).

S.W.P.A.

17.2.42 He left KURE (JAPAN) on 17/2/42 by the ASUMA SAN MARU
23.2.42 (about 8000 tons) for TRUK arriving there on 23/2/42. P/W stayed
26.2.42 in TRUK for three days then sailed for KAVIRING on 26/2/42 arriving
30.2.42 at KAVIRING on 29 or 30/2/42.

Between TRUK and KAVIRING he made three trips carrying food; Rice - beef - and biscuits also ammunition.

The ASUMA SAN MARU was accompanied on each of the trips by the GOYO MARU. (about 8000 tons) this ship was torpedoed June 42 some time in June 42 and towed by the ASUMA SAN MARU back to TRUK. The ship at this stage was on its side.

Both these ships carried 2 guns. A/A one fore and one aft, the calibre being about 3 inches also 2 W/T operators making five personnel to each gun, the personnel being from the YANO BUTAI (P/W's UNIT).

1.9.42
1.9.42

He left KAVIENG for RABAUL arriving on the morning of 1/9/42 sailed on the same day and arrived at RABI on the night of 1/9/42.

The ships from RABAUL to RABI had numbers only and were new. The numbers were 36, 38 and 39. These three ships each of 1000 tons were escorted by three destroyers and dropped anchor near RABI. These destroyers were each of approximately 2000 tons their names being MURAKUMO, SHIRAKUMO, and the YOSUKUMO.

On their arrival the HYASHI unit was in action, and P/W drew a rough sketch of the arrival: SEE APPX 'A'.

P/W also heard that Lt-Col HYASHI had been wounded as soon as they (YANO BUTAI) landed.

He heard a lot of shooting - got lost in the dark and wandered until his capture.

P/W lived on coconuts and vegetables from native gardens.

P/W pay is approximately S8-0-0 per month; S6-0-0 to wife - S2-0-0 for self.

About 120 landed from each ship with the numbers 36, 38, and 39.

All YANO BUTAI ^{landed} and a few from YOKOSUKA BUTAI were landed from destroyers.

His orders were to keep men up to the tops.

There was one MLC with the convoy carrying about 120 men.

P/W also stated that the aerodrome at KAVIENG had been made much larger and at times they all have to work on it.

Details of P/W's unit see Appx 'B'.

According to P/W MURİYAMA Coy and MAKIMURA Coy was still in KAVIENG.

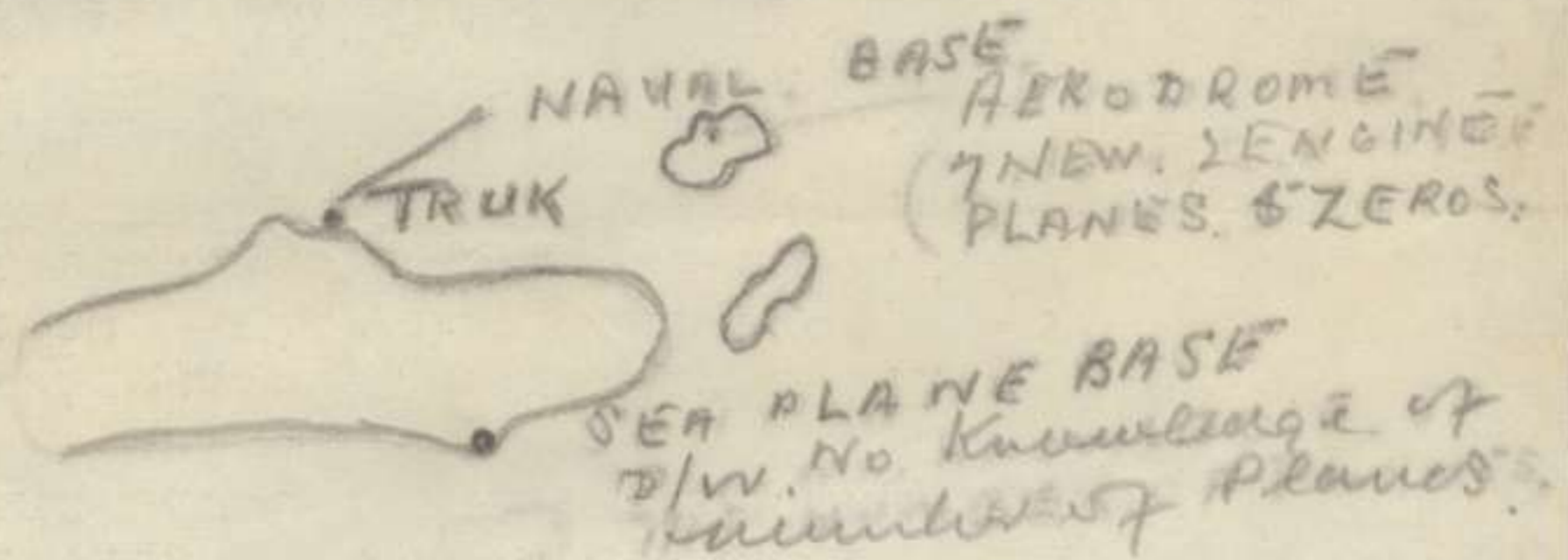
The only time that P/W saw tanks was during a trip to TOKYO with his wife - on this occasion there were 15-16 but only small ones.

AIR: P/W did not know a great deal about aeroplanes but at TRUK had seen two-engine planes - which were very new and he did not know the names of them - they were two engines and double rudders. There were 7 of these and 5 Zeros.

He had no knowledge of their speeds.

P/W also stated that there were about 2000 KOREANS at TRUK in labour units.

NAVAL & AIR:



1.9.42

NAVAL: On Sep 1, he thought there were 14 or 15 merchant ships and transports (all sizes) at RABAUL, also about seven destroyers, and two old cruisers about 4000 tons each. These were TATSUDA and TENRYU.

P/W did not know the names of the new ships, but could remember the following :

July 43

CRUISERS:

MOGAMI : 7500 tons. Sunk by aeroplanes in Dutch Harbour some time in July.
 ATAGO : 10000 tons
 MAYA : "
 CHOKAI : "
 HACHI : "
 MIYOKO : "
 CHIRAMA : "

He further stated that YOKOHAMA was the biggest shipyard as the battleships were built there. The next largest was KURE - he thought the first class cruisers were built there.

When questioned regarding battleships he gave the following information:

BATTLESHIPS:

YAGATO : 33000 tons
 MITSU : 33000 "
 YAMASHIRO : 30000 "
 FUSO : 30000 "
 ISH : 31000 "
 IYUGA : 31000 "
 KONGO : 37000 " now 30000 tons with new armament
 HARUNA : " " "
 KIRISHIMA : " " "
 HIRI : " " "

P/W also heard of the NISHIN - this was a submarine mother ship.

Aug 43.

At TRUK P/W saw the KAKO 7000 tons (he informed me that this was sunk in Aug) also

FURUTAKA 7000 tons
 KINUKASA 8000 "
 GABA 8000 " these four ships had guns with a calibre of approximately 8". Merchant ships were in and out of TRUK every day.

P/W was of opinion that TRUK was the biggest NAVAL base outside JAPAN - this was also the biggest sea-plane base.



When asked to draw a picture of the gun positions on the first class cruisers P/W sketched the following:



3 guns calibre about 8"
 3 guns
 KAKO 7000 tons (lost in SOLOMONS)
 FURUTAKA "



3 guns calibre about 8"
 x A/A guns - calibre about 5"

 4 guns calibre about 8"
 2 " " " "
 KINUGASA 7000 tons
 AOBA 7000 "
 3 guns calibre about 8"
 x A/A guns - calibre about 5"

P/W when questioned on ammunition plants thought most made near YOKOHAMA, but the big store of am was in the mountains in NAGASAKI.

P/W does not know Morse Code.


May 48

At TRUK P/W saw one aircraft carrier, SHOHO about 7000 tons. This was a converted merchant ship and sunk during the Coral Sea battle May 1942.

I obtained a questionnaire from Lt-Comd WILKINSON but the only questions the P/W could answer were:

1. Midget subs were carried on deck of mother craft and slid out the back after loading.
2. The TSUGARU was a 5000 ton minelayer.
3. The SUMIDA and HASIDATE are 700 ton gun-boats at SHANGHAI.
4. RADIO DETECTING DEVICES: For A/C only the usual receiver. Anti-submarine devices were on all ships - also for surface craft, but P/W knew very little about them.
5. He had only heard of the AIKOKU MARU.
6. On cruisers and destroyers these boats carried about 100 tps per 1000 tons in addition to the regular crew.
7. P/W saw three midget subs at TRUK.
8. The crew of the 55000 tonners was 1300.

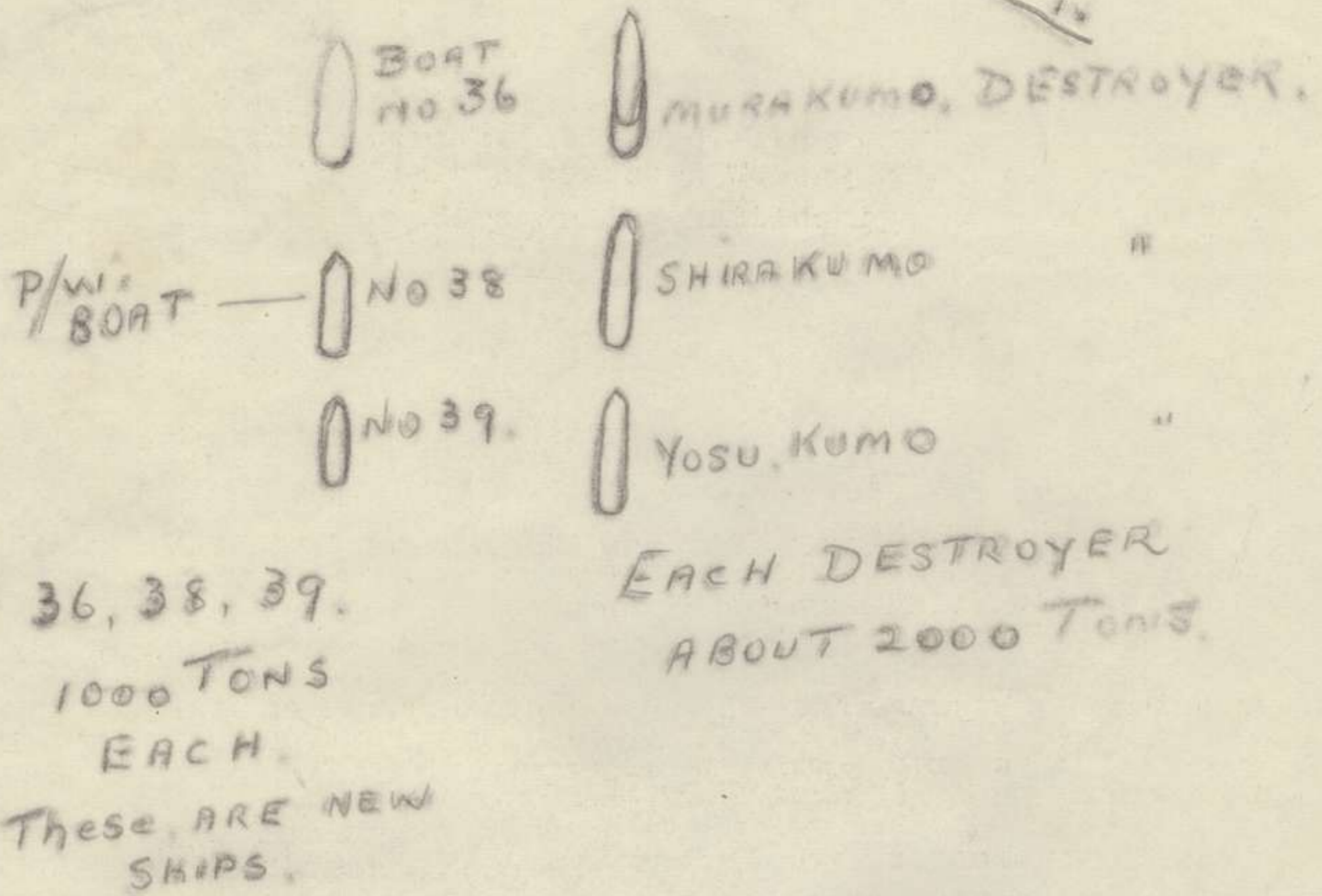
Although I did not ask P/W it is my personal opinion that he is pleased to know he is safe and with careful handling more information can be obtained.



INTERROGATOR. Lieut

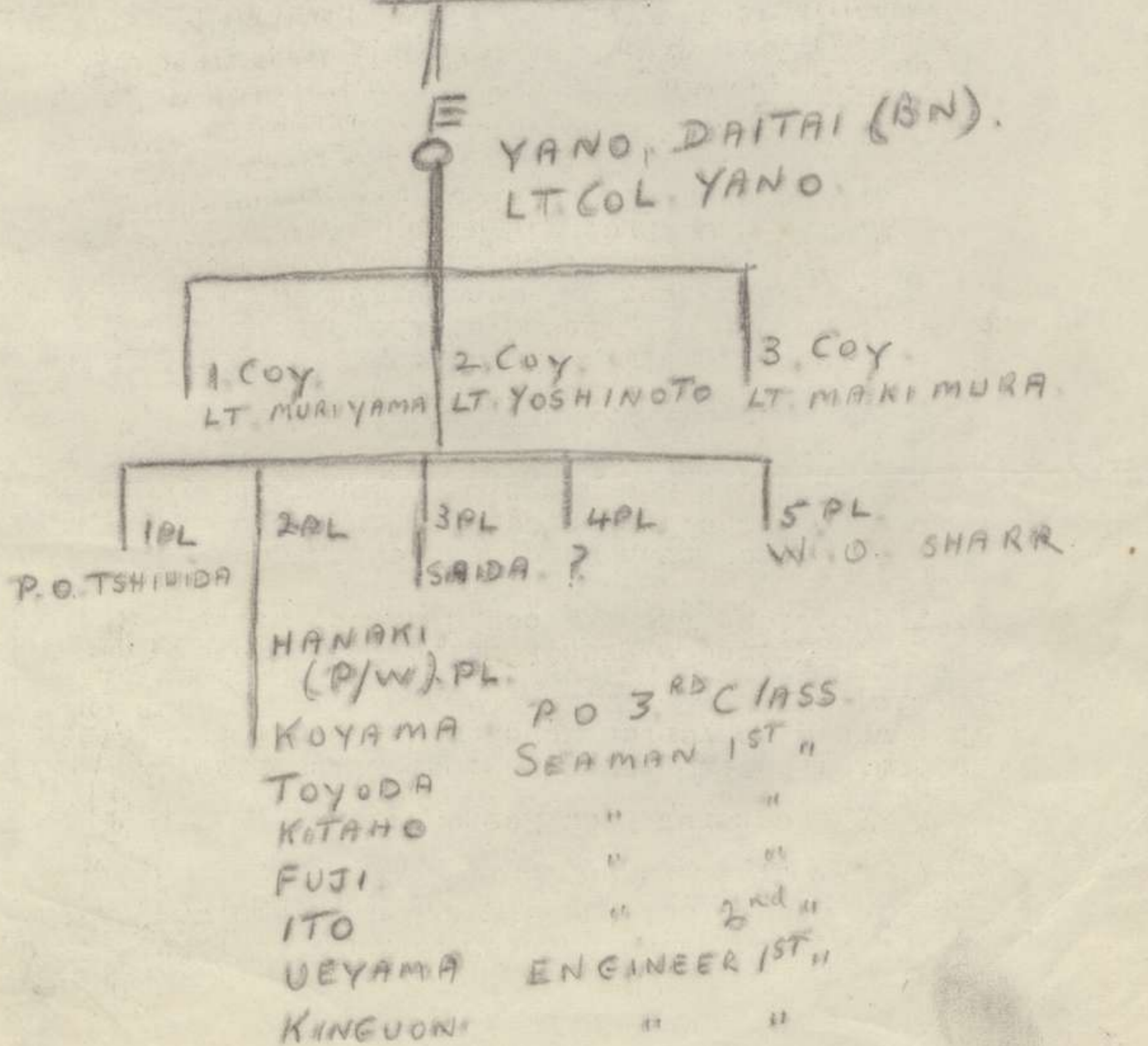
APP. "A"

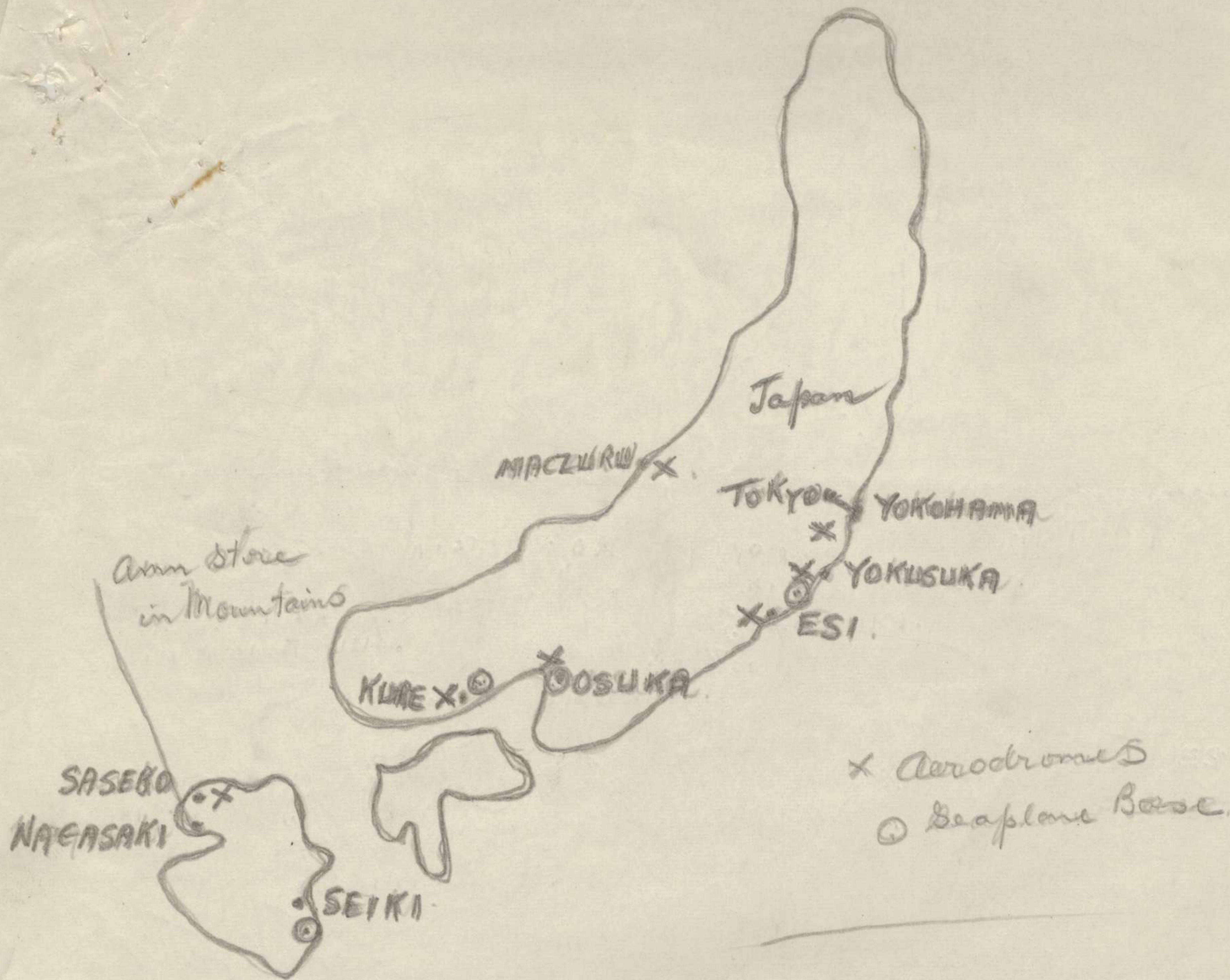
HYASHI UNIT
IN ACTION.



APP "B"

HYASHI BUTAI





COPY

ML/PI/I Subject - PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP PW

PRO H.Q. MORESBY

INTERROGATOR - Capt. W.E. HALLION.

INTERPRETERS - Lieut P.N. DRAKE
Lieut N.J. SPARNON.

NAME OF PW. - TAKAESU, Isamu
Number - (Stated had no knowledge of numbers or identity discs)
RANK - 1st CLASS STOKER
UNIT - FUJIKAWA COY (HAYASHI Unit - KURE No 5 S.L.F.)
AGE - 28 yrs.
BIRTHPLACE - OKINAWA KEN
CALL UP DEPOT- " " (later sent to KURE)
PREVIOUS SERVICE - NIL - Called up Sep. 41, no previous tng.
OCCUPATION - FARMER

The abovenamed prisoner was captured at PONGANI (COLLINGWOOD BAY area) by a P.I.B. patrol on 25 or 26 Sep 42. He was in a very weak condition when interrogated and could not remember dates or numbers, and statements made were vague and contradictory.

Prisoner stated that :-

1. He left the port of KURE 25 Jun 42 on the "KOTOKU MARU", accompanied by 2 other ships - "KINRYU MARU" and "AYATOZAN MARU" each approx 10,000 tons and carrying a total of approx 1,000 tps. Proceeded unescorted direct to RABAUl no ports of call, and arrived RABAUl approx one month later. Stayed about one week without disembarking. Bombed on 2 nights, without any damage done. About 10 ships were in harbour, some warships, but no submarines.
2. All 3 vessels then proceeded to LAE, again without escort, PW not clear how long it took from RABAUl to LAE, thought journey took about 5 days and did not remain long at LAE. All tps disembarked, 3 killed as result of bombing attack. Few tps were at LAE, and 2/300 tps from the convoy were left behind when the convoy proceeded on to SANANANDA.
3. The convoy was attacked by bombers off SANANANDA, where the "AYATOZAN" and "KOTOKU MARU" were sunk with 20 casualties. PW thought that disembarkation took place 15 Aug. The "KINRYU MARU" returned to RABAUl, but later came back accompanied by 5 or 6 destroyers. (Translation capture documents states "KINRYU MARU" sunk RABAUl 25 Aug). One unnamed ship arrived about a week later with approx 400 army tps on board. The army tps remained at SANANANDA and the "KINRYU MARU" with approx 400 tps on board, accompanied by the destroyers carrying other naval tps, left for RABI several days later. (PW was insistent that the ship was the "KINRYU MARU")
4. The convoy arrived RABI about the end of Aug. ; they immediately disembarked and landed from 13 barges. They advanced to the East, but heavy fire was encountered, causing them to withdraw to RABI, where he stated ample food was available, and they remained there until about 18 Sep.
5. About 18 Sep PW was verbally instructed by the comd of "HAYASHI" Unit to proceed with 2 others by canoe to BUNA, for the purpose of obtaining a wireless set from the naval Comm Centre, reason being no W/T facilities at RABI. From RABI, the voyage took 4/5 days to ANASARI, where the party went ashore to obtain coconuts, and saw a native with a wireless set which they took when the native ran away. PW thought wireless may not have been in working order so continued journey to BUNA. The party next landed at somepoint between EMBOGU and BUNA to cook a meal, where they were surprised by a party of armed natives (P.I.B. Patrol) who killed other 2 and took him prisoner. (P.I.B. Sgt KATORI stated PW captured PONGANI, 25 or 26 Sep 42.)

GENERAL

The PW expressed a keen desire to return to JAPAN after the war, but anxious that no advise of his capture be fwded to wife or relatives, as this would bring shame upon his wife and family.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

SECRET

PW 8

K70

HQ MILNE FORCE
Oct 42.

SUBJECT: REPORT ON INTERROGATION OF
PW YAMAMOTO, Taro.

7 AUST INF BDE
18 AUST INF BDE

1. Herewith report on preliminary interrogation of abovenamed PW captured in the MENARI area 3 Oct 42.

Col.
G.S. MILNE FORCE.

T.O.

JCM

J.J.

M1/P1/1. Subject - PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP PW.

Interrogator - Capt W.E. HALLION
Interpreter - Lt P.H. DRAKE.

Name of PW - YAMAMOTO, Taro
Number - -
Rank - 1st Class Pte
Unit - "TATE" 8417
Age - 23 yrs
Birthplace - EIHIME KEN
Call Up Depot - KOCHI
Previous Service Nil (Called up Apr 41 from 2nd reserve.)
Occupation - Factory worker.

The prisoner, who was suffering from malnutrition and dysentery was in a very weak condition when interrogated, but appeared to speak truthfully to the best of his ability.

The PW stated that:-

1. He left JAPAN on the "VENUS MARU" with nine other vessels carrying the "SEIBU" 34 Inf Regt, one mountain arty bn and some engrs. Escorted by 2 A/C carrs, 3 cruisers and 4 destroyers, convoy moved direct to GUAM and landed. After capture of GUAM, remained for one month and proceeded to RABAU, where a further landing took place. This operation was under the comd of Gen HORII and no other comds were known. He did not think any Aust soldiers were there now, and there were no women.
2. Left RABAU for NEW GUINEA about July, in 2 ships approx 6000 tons carrying a total of 600(?) tps and 30 horses. Landing was made at BUNA, and they advanced to KOKODA in 10 days, remained one day and pushed on. At first, food supply was good, but as they advanced it became poor, commenced with 8 days rations and later received 3 or more days ration.
3. Natives from RABAU were used for carrying amm and supplies while coolies (approx 100) from FORMOSA and KOREA, carried amm and luggage. (PW considered the KOREANS very weak.) All food was carried no dumps. The natives ran away when strafing took place.
4. The intention was to attack MORESBY with help from the sea to the south. (PW knew nothing of MILNE BAY ops.) The force was commanded by Gen HORII and consisted of one inf regt, one mountain arty bn (bty) and one engr regt. Inf comd - Col KUSUNO Sewaso, PWs Bn comd - Lt-Col KUWADA, Shiro.
5. The bn consisted of 3 rifle coys, one MG coy and bn gun pl; the MG coy had 8-7.7mm MGs and the bn gun pl to which the PW belonged consisted of 60 men and one bn gun(70mm). The PW had seen 3 mountain guns, but thought they belonged to main arty unit which he believed had followed them.
6. He had been to the HQ of Gen HORII for supplies, but could not say where it was.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

7. At this time the food ran out, many were sick and others had died, although more had died from wounds than sickness. PW developed malaria and on third day of retreat was unable to keep up with the main body and fell behind, when he was captured; others who were sick returned on stretchers.
8. He had no knowledge of the plans for withdrawal, and could not say where the main body had withdrawn to.
9. The prisoner stated he did not wish to return to JAPAN, and did not care if he was killed, although never actually told he would be killed if captured.
10. No knowledge of any General higher than HORII, and thought the supreme comd was an admiral. Some naval tps at SALAMAUUA and RABAUU but knew nothing of Army tps.
11. Divs have been abolished, they are all units now, but did not know of any because they are all secret. (PW stated ZENTSUJI is own div.) No knowledge of "TATE" and thought 8417 was used to denote unit when communicating with each other. The 144 Regt and 55 Div is now 34 unit.
12. All gas eqpt was considered too heavy and left at RABAUU. PW had some training in C.W. before leaving JAPAN. They did not bring flame throwers or "Tommy" guns and PW had no knowledge of bullet-proof vests. Captured eqpt was not used because they had their own.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Pw 13

7 Aust of Bde

REPORT ON INTERROGATION OF JAP
P.W. AT 18 BDE HQ, 6 Sept. 42.

HQ, MILNE FORCE
7 Sep, 42.

NAME: SAKAKI, MINORU.

PLACE OF CAPTURE: LILIHU AREA.

RANK: Pte.

UNIT: KURE No. 5 SPECIAL LANDING FORCE (HAYASHI UNIT).

UNIT COMDR.: LT-COL. (Naval Comdr) HAYASHI.

COY COMDR.: TAUCHI, HEICHI.

PL COMDR : HOMURA, SCHICHIRO

AGE: 37 years.

BIRTH PLACE: YAMAGUCHI KEN.

Standard of education: PRIMARY SCHOOL.

CALL UP FOR SERVICE : 23 Oct. 1941 at KURE.

P.W. left JAPAN on 10 August on the HAKOSAKI MARU in company with 400 men, comprising the HAYASHI unit. They arrived at RABAU on 19? (20?) Aug and left again on 26? Aug. by the NANKAI MARU arriving at RABI on 27? (28?) Aug. about 1900 or 2000 hrs. He thinks another party of approx 200 men landed earlier, but is not sure, and cannot remember the name of the Unit, having heard it only once. Coolies also were landed, but he does not know the number.

The 400 men on board the NANKAI MARU comprised 2 Coys. In each company there were 3 Rifle Pls and 1 M.G. Pl. 6 L.M.G's and 8 H.M.G'S were brought. There were 2 light tanks on board, but no Arty. or anti-tank guns. The NANKAI MARU was escorted by one destroyer, which went ahead. P.W. saw no other ships in the convoy.

The men were landed in 7 barges, each taking 50 or 60 men. There were only about 8 casualties during the landing, due to M.G. fire.

The NANKAI MARU was bombed but not hit.

No Army personnel were landed. In P.W.'s opinion the entire force was a naval landing party. He heard that reinforcements had been landed, but did not know exactly when nor how many.

P.W. stated that in his opinion the main body of his unit was evacuated on the night 5/6 Sep after dark. P.W. along with 3 friends became detached from the main party. After the evening meal, P.W. fell asleep and, on awakening, found that he had been left behind alone. He says that, although he cannot say for sure that the main body went on board ship, it is the only explanation he can give for their hasty departure. He thinks his friends caught up with the main body, but as he had sore feet, he could not manage it.

Food, he stated, was beginning to run short and casualties had been heavy. He could not estimate their number.

P.W. stated that he had received very little training, having been called up on 23 Oct 1941. He had rifle training only.

He stated that, although he had not been long in action, he was already 'war weary' and was anxious to return to JAPAN to his family. Many of his friends felt the same way due to their failure in this operation.

Of numbers of troops and names of Commanders at RABAU, P.W. knew nothing.

(over)

NOTE : P.W. repeatedly pointed out that a lot of the information required was beyond the scope of a Private, who heard very little of what was taking place or what was planned.

He appeared to have lost his sense of time and was not sure of the dates given. He also stated that the figures given by him were just a rough approximation.

(SIGNED) J. Forsythe (Capt.)
INTERNOG 308

7 Aust Intell Base, Leningrad, Summary
19 Oct 42
U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 11

REPORT ON PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP
P.W. TAKEN AT NORMANBY ISLAND 23/9/42.

I agree
Summary

1. NAMES:

- 1. HAMANAKA, HARUO
- 2. HIKIURA, SEONI
- 3. OHONINE, YOSHINASA
- 4. INOUI, TOYOTAKA
- 5. FUJITA, SHIGESHI
- 6. TAKAKI, HISAO
- 7. UCHINO, TOSHIROU
- 8. TSUTA, AKIRA.

The above P.W., all ORs, were members of the crew of the JAP destroyer YAYOI, which was bombed and sunk by A/C on 11 Sep. The full complement of the destroyer was 200.

Over half the crew were lost, including the Comd - YASUTAKE, SHIRO (TAISA).

The destroyer YAYOI, left JAPAN on 15 Aug, proceeded direct to SAIPAN, arriving there on 20 Aug, thence to RABAU, arriving approx 27 AUG.

The voyage, on which the destroyer was sunk, was the third such voyage made by the destroyer, the purpose on each occasion being to land provisions or take off members of the original JAP landing force. On these voyages, the YAYOI co-operated at different times with the destroyers ARASHI, NUTSUKI and ISOKAZE and the cruiser TENIKU.

At the time of sinking, the YAYOI was accompanied by the ISOKAZE, which was not badly damaged and returned toward RABAU.

One P.W. stated that on the night 6/7 Sep or 7/8 Sep up to 200 JAP wounded were evacuated and returned to RABAU. Some prisoners had the impression that a considerable number of wounded were to be picked up on the night 11/12 Sep. The destroyer had been previously in touch by W/F with JAPS on shore.

I was not able at the time to establish the spot where these remaining JAPS were to be taken on board the destroyer or destroyers.

Concerning the sinking of the destroyer, P.W. state that about 1600 hrs on 11 Sep they were attacked by approx 10 A/C, 5 of which attacked from the bow and 5 from the stern.

Almost immediately the destroyer sank by the stern in flames.

Approx 50 men, some of them badly burnt, took to the two ship's boats and after drifting about all night, reached a beach at NORMANBY ISLAND at dawn on 12/9. While the badly wounded rested under the coconut trees, the remainder went up into the mountains in search of food. The natives encountered were at first a little afraid, but later gave members of the party some food. (HAMANAKA, HARUO states that subsequently a party of natives gave him up to Aust troops).

Each day members of the party who were able to walk, split up into small groups and went up into the mountains in search of food. They re-assembled on the beach after dark. Later, due to strafing by our A/C, the party withdrew into the mountains.

The survivors from the YAYOI had neither weapons, food, nor supplies nor W/F equipment.

MOST SECRET

A.T.I.S.

8 Oct 42.

Subject : CONSOLIDATED INTERROGATION REPORT NO 1

HISTORY AND MOVEMENTS OF "YAYOI"

YAYOI was attached to the 4th Squadron before the outbreak of War. At time of sinking she was under the command of the 8th Fleet. She was at SASEBO on 23rd October, 1940. Sailed for South Seas late November or early December 1940. Cruised among islands and later was based at TRUK.

At outbreak of the war was at some Coral reef, locality unknown, in company with 5 other destroyers. YAYOI proceeded in company with several other destroyers for WAKE ISLAND, but returned to TRUK on encountering hostile aircraft.

She then performed patrol duties until 1st August 1942 when she returned to SASEBO for a re-fit. After docking she sailed for RABAU for convoy duties calling at SAIPAN en route.

Was escorting 2 ships in company with MUTSUKI when the latter was sunk. It was stated that MUTSUKI was sunk en route to TULAGI in company with KINRYU MARU.

YAYOI then returned to RABAU preceding the two previously escorted ships.

(NOTE: Translation of document No 26 captured Milne Bay area, page 2, indicates that the KINRYU MARU left GUAM 14/8/42 and was sunk 28/8/42 when carrying members of the YASUDA UNIT, YOKOSUKA No 5 S.L.U., to GUADACANAL)

Left RABAU about 2 days later on patrol, sighting a few unidentified planes but no enemy ships. YAYOI was sunk while on patrol with ISOKAZE.

SINKING OF YAYOI

YAYOI was attacked by aircraft early afternoon 11 September, 1942, and sank in about 10 minutes after being hit by bombs, one forward and one mid-ship. The latter exploded in the vicinity of the engine-room damaging steam pipes which caused injuries to all but one of the prisoners. Not more than 60 of the crew were able to take to the two boats which were launched.

The two boats each contained a number of men who were unwounded, and these rowed. The boats became separated and landed at different points on NORMANBY ISLAND. An exception was HAMANAKA who was on duty on the bridge at the time of the attack. He secured a life-belt, swam or drifted for about 12 hours and landed on the island by himself. He did not see any of the others on the island.

It is not clear whether the occupants of the boats joined forces on the island or not, but in either case the unwounded members searched for food while the wounded rested. It was during the absence of the unwounded members that the Ps.W. were taken. FUJITA stated that he attempted to hide behind a tree, and was shot by an AMERICAN SOLDIER.

The party on the island had no food, weapons, medical supplies or means of communication. Ps.W. did not think that the Japanese Naval Forces knew of their landing.

Potatoes, coconuts and tapioca were obtained from natives. P.W. thought that they must have been on the island about 10 days, and they presumed that the remainder were still there.

Amongst those who landed were a -

Chief Engineer (Kikancho)
Medical Officer
Torpedo Officer (SUIRAICHO)

also CHIRA TATSUO, and Engineer Captain (?). One P.W. stated that the commander of the YAYOI, a Lt. Commander, had also landed.

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PRISONER OF WAR NO 47.

AUG
SEPT
30
1942

JAPANESE AIR FORCE PRISONER, POSSIBLY A CAPT
WAS CAPTURED AT HIOGE N. COAST MILNE BAY, AS THE
RESULT OF INVESTIGATION OF NATIVE RUMOUR, BY A PATROL
OF 8TH PL 61BN, STATIONED AT TAUPOTA.

THE PLANE WHICH, IT IS SUPPOSED, CRASHED INTO THE SEA,
CARRIED 3 OF A CREW. THE PRISONER APPARENTLY MANAGED
THE MAN TO REACH THE SHORE. HE EVADED CAPTURE BUT
WAS ULTIMATELY APPREHENDED AT HIOGE MISSION. HE HAD IN
HIS POSSESSION A PISTOL AND WAS DRESSED IN AIR FORCE
UNIFORM. THE PRISONER WAS POLITE AND HELPFUL, COULD
SPEAK A LITTLE ENGLISH, AND APPEARED TO BE INTELLIGENT.

HE MENTIONED HAVING BEEN IN SYDNEY IN 1936
IN THIS WAR HE HAS TAKEN PART IN OPERATIONS OVER
MALAYA, SINGAPORE, RABUL, AND LAE.

PATROL AND PRISONER ARRIVED GILISII WITH
THIS INFORMATION ON THE NIGHT OF SATURDAY SEPT. 5 1942
AND AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 HRS THE PRISONER WAS GIVEN
INTO THE CUSTODY OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS AT FORCE
HEAD QUARTERS.

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF JAP PW MILNE FORCE No 15

HQ HQ Force
28 Oct 42.

Interrogators - Lieut DWYKE P.H.
Lieut THOMAS P.G.
Capt. BENJAMIN A.L.

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Name : SEN SATURI
Rank : Nil
Unit : Labour Corps (KOREAN)
Age : 31 years
Call up No : Unknown (was marked on his uniform at one time)
Civil occupation : Baker; latterly roof repairer.
Religion : Nil
Married - no children.
Wife's address - KOREA
KEL-YEADO
ANJOGON
ANJOMEN
CHOGINI

R. Mahoney

2. Brief History of Movements -

Movements were identical with those of PW No 16.
(Note: This PW speaks KOREAN only and interrogation consequently had to be conducted through PW No 16.)

(Sgt)

A.L. BENJAMIN

Capt.

GHI HQ Force.