

Ref: 1935/45

28 Jan 46

INTERROGATION OF Maj KUBOTA

SUBJECT: 3 AIR ARMY GROUND TRAINING.

1. SOURCE

Maj KUBOTA, Morinosuke senior instructor at 1st Air Training Unit, (1 KOKUKYOIKUTAI) was a typical example of the worst kind of regular RSM promoted to commissioned rank. He was highly unintelligent and obviously a disciplinarian who did not understand the meaning of discipline. Blind obedience to the Emperor was his only code. His interrogators found his stupidity irritating. His statements may be assessed as fairly reliable.

2. PERSONAL RECORD.

Feb 33 Appointed 2nd Lt, attached to 18 Transport Regiment.
From Sep 35 to Feb 36:-
A student at the Military Cavalry School
Oct 35 Promoted to Lt.
Mar 37 Appointed adjutant 18 Transport Regiment.
Jul 38 Promoted to Capt.
Dec 38 Attached to home unit of 18 Transport Regiment.
From May 39 to Aug 39:-
A student of Military Motor-vehicle School.
Jun. 39 A coy commander of home unit of 18 Transport Regiment.
Aug 40 Appointed adjutant of 56 Transport Regiment.
Jul 41 Appointed adjutant of 56 Division.
Feb 42 Took part in the BURMA operation in the SALWEEN River area as personal staff officer to 56 Division Commander.
Feb 43 Attached to 56 Transport Regiment.
Aug 43 Chief Training officer of 1st Air Training Unit. (till the Japanese surrender)
Aug 44 Promoted to Maj.

3. HISTORICAL.

This unit was established in Aug 43 for the purpose of training NCO cadets. Training was commenced in Nov 43 and training of reserve NCO cadets was also started. From Aug 44 reserve officer cadets were also trained. The school was located at NEESON and the CO was Lt Col KONOMA.

4. PURPOSE OF TRAINING.

"The aim of training was to nurture sound moral and noble character" and incidentally train men to be efficient ground staff NCOs

"To attain the above aims, the students were taught to be frank, honest, straightforward and trustworthy, and to carry out orders at all cost. Training in technical matters, therefore, was given only secondary place in the training scheme, while special importance was attached to moral education. Practical habits were cultivated throughout the daily life in barracks and in technical training .

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5. COURSES.

<u>Length of course.</u>	<u>Type of course</u>	<u>No. of person- nel trained</u>
Dec 44/Apr 45 (5 months)	Cadets for reserve officers. No. 1 course (These students had passed through 3 months' training in land force units)	464
Dec 43/Apr 44 (5 months)	Cadets for reserve NCOs. No. 1 course	43
Mar 44/Jul 44 (5 months)	Cadets for reserve NCOs No. 2 course	2
Nov 43/Feb 44 (4 months)	Privates to be promoted NCOs. No. 1 course	248
Mar 44/Jul 44 (5 months)	Privates to be promoted NCOs. No. 2 course	184
Jun 44/Nov 44 (6 months)	Privates to be promoted NCOs. No. 3 course	471
Sep 44/Feb 45 (6 months)	Privates to be promoted NCOs. No. 4 course	324
		<u>TOTAL 1,736</u>
Mar 45	Privates to be promoted NCOs. No. 5 course (Scheduled to end August 45, but discontinued by the surrender)	438

NOTE.

- 6 month courses: First 2 months mainly ordinary training, remaining 4 months mainly specialised training.
- 5 month courses: First 2 months mainly ordinary training, remaining 3 months mainly specialised training.
- 4 month courses: First 1 month mainly ordinary training, remaining 3 months mainly specialised training.

The above rule did not apply to Cadets for reserve officers.

42 of No. 5 course were attached to 11 Air Signals Regiment two months before the end of the war.

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6. DETAILS OF TRAINING FOR PRIVATES TO BE PROMOTED NCOs & RESERVE NCO CADETS.

Psychological training		29 training periods		
Training in barracks; Study of non-military subjects (only for privates to be promoted NCOs); Fencing and physical training	160	"	"	
Ordinary training: drill, camp routine, firing practice and transport	219	"	"	
Special training : on Engines, Electricity, Armament, Metal work, Telephone, Wireless, radio guidance, for aircraft, anti-aircraft machine guns, general meteorology, cipher, anti-aircraft observation photography, transport, gas, bugles, instruments.....	321	"	"	
Total training periods	<u>729</u>	"	"	

The total number of training periods for the 4 month's courses, was 512 periods and for the 5 month's courses 643 periods.

Each period lasted for 1½ hours.

A quarter of all periods were spent in night training.

7. TRAINING FOR RESERVE OFFICER CADETS.

Psychological training		27 periods	
Training in barracks	43	"	
Ordinary training (same as that for privates to be promoted NCOs)	150	"	
Special training (communication, firing)	<u>350</u>	"	
Total training periods in 5 months	<u>570</u>	"	

These students had completed 3 months' training in ground units.

8. TIME TABLE.

	<u>SCHEDULE 1</u>				<u>SCHEDULE 2</u>			
	<u>A.M.</u>		<u>P.M.</u>		<u>A.M.</u>		<u>P.M.</u>	
	<u>1 part</u>	<u>2 part</u>	<u>1 part</u>	<u>2 part</u>	<u>1 part</u>	<u>2 part</u>	<u>1 part</u>	<u>2 part</u>
Mon	Psychological training	ordinary training	Inside training	training	Psychological training	ordinary training	Inside training	training
Tue	No training				No training			
Wed	Ordinary training				Special training			
Thu	Ordinary training				Special training			

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SCHEDULE I

SCHEDULE 2

	<u>A.M.</u>		<u>P.M.</u>		<u>A.M.</u>		<u>P.M.</u>	
	<u>1 part</u>	<u>2 part</u>	<u>1 part</u>	<u>2 part</u>	<u>1 part</u>	<u>2 part</u>	<u>1 part</u>	<u>2 part</u>
Fri		Ordinary training					Special training	
Sat		Special training			Special training		Ordinary training	
Sun	Special training		Fencing & Gymnastics		Ordinary training		Fencing and Gymnastics	

REMARKS:

One month training in SCHEDULE I for 4 month's course
 Two months " " " " I for 5 " "
 " " " " 1 for 6 " "
 Three months training in SCHEDULE 2 for 4 months' course
 " " " " 2 " 5 " "
 Four " " " " 2 " 6 " "

9. NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS.

There were 5 ordinary companies in the school and in each coy there were 4/5 officer instructors and 10 NCO instructors.

10. SPECIALISED TRAINING.

Specialised training was carried out in coys as under:-

- 1 Coy Engines, electric machines, armament, metal work, instruments.
- 2 Coy Signals (line & wireless), radio guidance for aircraft.
(This coy was attached to 11 Air Signals Regiment on and after 17 Jun 45)
- 3 Coy AA machine-guns, AA guns and light machine-guns.
- 4 Coy Meteorology, cipher, anti-aircraft observation and photogtaphy.
- 5 Coy Motor vehicles, gas bugles.
- Officer Signals and firing (Established Dec 44, disbanded Jun 45)
- Cadets Coy

NOTE:

Ordinary training was carried out by each company in addition. These companies were divided into platoons dealing with each subject.

11. PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAINING.

Source appeared to be only interested in this kind of training. The training emphasised the traditions of imperial JAPAN, obedience to/Emperor, the spirit of BUSHIDO and the glory of death in battle.

12. PROMOTION.

Students who passed out of the school were not automatically promoted. They returned to their units with their previous rank and awaited their turn for promotion depending on their length of service. Normally however, they had a better chance of promotion than ordinary men in the unit, though men might be trained in the unit and then promoted. All ground personnel in the Air Army were given ordinary ground training in JAPAN and then sent to a unit for a year to pick

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up what specialised knowledge they could and then sent to a school similar to the above.

13. DISCIPLINE.

Discipline was strict, but there were very few breaches of discipline as "all Japanese soldiers always obeyed their superior officers". Students were hardly ever allowed out and though they were allowed to drink SAKE and go to brothels, they had hardly any opportunity of doing so. Source said that discussions were not forbidden but they were always led on the right ways of thinking. KUBOTA could only remember one breach of discipline. They had had a few deserters at the time of the surrender, but they had all returned except one who deserted in Oct.

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