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HEADQUARTERS  
U. S. STRATEGIC LOBBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)  
C/O POSTMASTER SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO ~~Not Assigned~~  
(Jap Intell No. 49)

PLACE: TOKYO  
DATE: 17



Subject: KEMPEI TAI

Personnel Interrogated and Background:

Lt. Col. YAMAMURA and 2nd Lt. OGATA  
Military Career of Lt. Col. YAMAMURA:  
1919: Graduated from military academy and assigned to 70th Infantry Regiment  
1924: Military Academy Staff - Administration  
1929: Attended KEMPEI School at NAFANO, Tokyo  
1930: Officer in Charge of KEMPEI at MAIZUMU (Naval Base).  
1932-39: KWANTUNG ARMY, KEMPEI TAI Staff Officer  
1939-44: Officer in Charge of students at KEMPEI school, NAFANO  
1944 (Mar): Assigned to GAIJI-FU (foreign bureau)

Where Interviewed: Meiji Building.

Interrogators: Major R. S. SPIELMAN, JR., AC  
Lt. Comdr. PAINE PAUL, USNR.

Interpreter: Major JOHN PFEIL, USMC.

Allied Officers present: None.

SUMMARY:

All KEMPEI TAI training for Officers in Japan, Korea and Formosa was given at the NAFANO, (TOKYO) school. There were, also, schools in CHINA, MANCHURIA AND MALAYA. Selection of candidates was made on the basis of physical and mental tests and family eligibility. No course was given in Military Intelligence.

Armies sent to overseas areas were assigned KEMPEI units prior to departure from Japan. KEMPEI Headquarters in an area army would have a personnel complement of about 20 with an approximate total of 1,000 in the entire Area Army. Of this total, about 20 made up the Division Headquarters including a Major and a Company Grade Officer. KEMPEI units come under the jurisdiction of the Army units to which they are attached, except in the home islands where they are directly under the Tokyo KEMPEI Headquarters.

In a field unit KEMPEI functions included:

- a. P.P. duty
- b. Discipline
- c. Security
- d. Counter intelligence, surveillance of civilians.

YAMAMURA stated that prisoners of war were first turned over to the KEMPEI unit for preliminary screening only (name, job, etc.), to prevent their escape, and to protect them from civilians. Interrogation was conducted by the Intelligence Unit of the Army.

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Interrogation of Lt Col YAMAMURA, Japanese Army.

In the field, natives were sometimes hired to act as spies and to locate enemy spies. To some extent, the operations of KEMPEI TAI overlapped with those of TOJIKI KIFAN resulting in considerable friction.

Lt. Col. YAMAMURA agreed to supply a copy of the KEMPEI TAI Organization Chart.

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Interrogation of Lt Col YAMAMURA, Japanese Army, (contd).

Q.1. What positions in the IHIPEI did you two Officers occupy?

A.a. (Col. YAMAMURA) I was in charge of external security (foreign) bureau, (GAIJI) to guard military and state secrets.  
b. (2nd Lt OGATA) I collected intelligence concerning air raid casualties.

Q.2. Is Col YAMAMURA a regular Army Officer?

A. We both are.

Q.3. How long have each of you been connected with IHIPEI?

A. About 15 years each.

NOTE: The rest of the interrogation was addressed to Lt. Col. YAMAMURA.

Q.4. Has the IHIPEI submitted an organizational chart to any allied group?

A. Yes. It was completed last night, is being translated and will be sent to General Headquarters.

Q.5. Will you send us a copy?

A. Yes, I will.

Q.6. What connection did the IHIPEI have with General ARISUI's Intelligence Section?

A. None. Liaison only.

Q.7. To what extent was the top IHIPEI command composed of Army and Civilians?

A. There were no Civilians. Workers, drivers, etc. were the only civilians attached.

Q.8. We want as complete an outline of the duties of IHIPEI TAI as possible as it relates to combat and military intelligence, both at home and abroad.

A. IHIPEI didn't collect intelligence, their work was counter-intelligence. When prisoners of war were captured, IHIPEI held them for questioning as to Name, Rank, and Serial Number, protected them from civilians and turned them over to the Area Com and for interrogation.

Q.9. Outline the duties of IHIPEI TAI in connection with field commands.

A. They come under the field unit (Army) jurisdiction.

Q.10. Is there a IHIPEI TAI organization separate from the Army organization which would stem back to the Area Army? (A parallel organization reporting back to its own head rather than through a Division Commander?)

A. It would report to the Division Intelligence Office. It would almost never be attached to a unit as low as a regiment?

Q.11. List the duties of IHIPEI in a field unit.

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## Interrogation of Lt Col YAMAMURA, Japanese Army, (contd)

- A. 1. I.P. duty  
 2. Discipline  
 3. Security  
 4. Examine civilians in line with counter-intelligence. They don't attempt to get operational intelligence, not being a fighting unit.

Q.12. Did IJF PFI ever send agents in advance of the Army to MALAYA, NEW GUINEA e.g., to sound out the people?

A. I don't know of any such cases. My department got information from civilians, if they came under military police, however the civil police did most of it. My department may have held prisoners but the questioning was done by experts from the Area Office. However, Americans and British civilians in Japan were questioned by IJF PFI.

Q.13. When armies were sent overseas were IJF PFI units attached? Take a specific example.

A. Yes, in Tokyo. A Major and 1 Company Officer, with a total strength of 20 would be attached to a Division.

Q.14. Would it be organized as a separate IJF PFI detachment?

A. They received orders from the Division Commander but were a separate section. In the case of a Navy landing force, no IJF PFI was attached. KEMPEI TAI differs from military police in that it has authority over civilians. JUNRA (Navy S.P.'s), are strictly military police, exactly like American S.P.'s.

Q.15. In the Philippines were natives recruited as part of the organization?

A. Yes, some were hired. They were used as spies, and to locate spies.

Q.16. Did any civilians or regular IJF PFI Officers go behind the lines to determine strength, etc. in the Philippines?

A. I don't believe they did. I think that would be a job of TOKUFU KIKAN. I don't know how strong TOKUFU KIKAN was in the Philippines.

Q.17. How about in MANCHURIA, in your experience?

A. In MANCHURIA both were under the Area Army but the organizations were frequently at cross purpose and there was much friction. To avoid friction KEMPEI TAI Officers were sometimes attached as liaison to TOKUFU KIKAN.

Q.18. Where TOKUFU KIKAN did not operate such as in the Philippines, Java, New Guinea, did IJF PFI TAI take over those duties?

A. I don't think so. The Area Commander would have set up an organization similar to TOKUFU KIKAN to handle them.

Q.19. Were prisoners, at the time of capture, turned over to IJF PFI? What was the routine procedure?

A. In the field, after capture, prisoners of war are turned over to IJF PFI until orders are received to turn them over to the Army Headquarters. A KEMPEI guard might accompany prisoners being sent back to Japan.

Interrogation of Lt Col YAMAMURA, Japanese Army, (contd).

Q.20. What routine questioning was done by KEMPEI TAI?

A. Prisoner's name, his job, etc. - simply a screening process.

Q.21. Who received prisoners (Airmen) captured in Japan?

A. Orders were to turn them over to the Area Army Headquarters. Civilian police would do the same.

Q.22. What other schools than the one at NAFANO did KEMPEI operate?

A. NAFANO was the only one in Japan, but there was one in China, Manchuria and Malaya. The NAFANO school trained for Japan, Korea and Formosa.

Q.23. Who was most recently head of NAFANO?

A. Lt Gen HINOSHITA.

Q.24. Who was the administrative head in charge of students?

A. Colonel HITARAI. He may have been replaced.

Q.25. What other training was offered at NAFANO? Army Intelligence?

A. There were no such courses.

Q.26. Did such organizations as coast watchers come under KEMPEI?

A. They might have but I doubt it.

Q.27. Where the Japanese Army withdrew, retreated were the individuals left behind KEMPEI men?

A. They might be KEMPEI or might be TOFU JAPAN.

Q.28. What was the school at AFASAKA-IU?

A. I don't know. It wasn't a KEMPEI school.

Q.29. What were your specific duties?

A. To ferret out detrimental rumors etc. I warned the populace of expected bombings, based on your propaganda leaflets. Toward the end of the war your propaganda was having a great effect. It was my job to attempt to keep these leaflets away from the people.

Q.30. We understand that considerable prestige was attached to membership in KEMPEI. On what basis were men selected?

A. Special intelligence tests were given to select them out of the volunteers. Families were investigated etc. Officers were sometimes assigned directly to KEMPEI from the Military Academy if they volunteered for it. In the Empire (home islands) KEMPEI Units came directly under the Tokyo KEMPEI Headquarters.

Q.31. What was the strength in an Area Army?

A. It might be a total of 1,000.

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Interrogation of Lt Col YAMAMURA, Japanese Army, (contd).

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About 20 men in an Area Army Headquarters. Various men in the field would report to this Headquarters Staff. At the Area Army level IEMPEI is part of the Army Headquarters; in units below that, attached KEMPEI Units reported direct to their Headquarters at the Area Army. There is much friction between IEMPEI men and the Army. KEMPEI men are usually let alone as much as possible.

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