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SUBJECT: Interrogation Report.

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DATE: 23rd October, 1944.

Compilation of NEFIS Interrogation Reports Nos. 418-425 inclusive (Not issued separately).

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1. Attached is Compilation of NEFIS Interrogation Reports Nos. 418-425 inclusive (Not issued separately).

2. Information contained in this report is based solely on interrogation of evacuees and should be evaluated accordingly.

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COMPILATION OF NEFIS INTERROGATION REPORTS.
Nos. 418-425 INCLUSIVE (NOT ISSUED SEPARATELY).

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NOTE:

The above reports refer to eight Javanese informants, released by U.S. Forces on Biak Island and on Dutch New Guinea during May - Aug '44.

Three former members of the Legion of the Mangkoe Negoro were not interned; one former soldier was released after internment, and another was not interned but used by the Japanese as a driver. The other three are civilians. All had been forced to join Hei-Ho units.

As their information for the greater part is identical with that in interrogation reports issued previously, this compilation deals only with additional information.

III. TACTICAL DATA ON ENEMY MILITARY FORCES.

Dispositions and Strength of Organisations and Units: At Solo (Mid-Java) in Jul '43, about 500 Japanese Infantry were quartered in former Left Half 21st Bn barracks. Another informant estimates the total in Nov '43 at only 200 personnel.

During an informant's residence in Djember (East Java), up to Aug '43, he estimated the total strength there to be about 200 Army personnel. Informant thought that the majority were Kempei, and a number of others were military personnel engaged on supervisory work in the State Railway offices.

At the end of Dec '43, about 60 Japanese troops were quartered in the residences of the former Assistent Resident and the Controleur at Toeloengagoeng (East Java).

About Sept '43, barracks for Japanese troops were seen to be under construction at Popoh (East Java). Informant judged them to be of some importance, as the construction was supervised by Japanese personnel and by personnel from Toeloengagoeng (East Java) workshops. Smaller barracks were being built in Prigi Bay (south coast of East Java).

An informant, member of Hei-Ho, who was quartered at former 8th Bn barracks at Malang (East Java) in Sept '43 - Jan '44, noted that in the barracks immediately to the rear there were about 300 Japanese Army personnel quartered.

At Poerworedjo (Mid-Java) in Jul '43, about 200 Japanese troops were quartered at the former 2nd Depot Bn barracks.

Names of Unit Commanders: The Commander of Hei-Ho Coy. 10446 at Manokwari (Dutch New Guinea) about Jun '44, was 1st Lieut. Arai.

Native Troops: An informant who left Toeloengagoeng (East Java) in Sept '43, said that he knew of two Javanese who joined the Soekarella and went to an Officers' School in Batavia. On completion of the course, which lasted three months, they were sent to Kediri (East Java) to train Soekarella troops. Their names were Djono, formerly a clerk in the Toeloengagoeng pawn shop, and Soekijat, formerly a foreman in the sugar factory at Modjopanggoeng (East Java).

Lines of Communication and Transport: According to one informant, the Japanese, towards the end of '42, began constructing a direct road from Tanggoel (East Java) to Kentjong (East Java), through Semboro (East Java). However, by Jan '44, the work was still not completed. To reach Kentjong by the existing route it is necessary to proceed from Tanggoel to Pondokdalam (East Java) before turning south to Kentjong.

Supply Arrangements and Installations: In Aug '43, Japanese

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rice supplies were drawn on a large scale from Tanggoel (East Java), where the mills were working 24 hrs a day throughout the year. Two Japanese soldiers were stationed there as inspectors. The rice was loaded at a special railway siding.

Location of PW Camps: Before he left Kediri (East Java) in Sept '43, an informant heard of the construction of a new camp on one of the estates in this district. Informant cannot remember the name of the estate, but heard that it was not far from the town of Kediri. The camp was wired as well as having bamboo fences.

It was reported about the middle of '43 that a new PW camp had been opened at Kesilir (near Banjoewangi, East Java) and that a number of Dutch PW had been transferred there, and put to work clearing jungle for some agricultural enterprise.

Up to Jan '44, Dutch PW were still being held at former Dutch Naval barracks at Sawahan, Malang (East Java).

Radar and Radio Stations: There was a Japanese military radio station at Manahan, Solo town (Mid-Java) in Jul '43. It was situated approximately 300 metres southwest of the racecourse, and had six steel masts, each approximately 20 metres high.

About the middle of '42, an informant noticed that the former Dutch radio installation at Maospati, near Madioen (East Java) was being operated by the Japanese.

## V. BASIC AIR INFORMATION.

Locations of Air Installations: At Tanggoel (East Java) in Sept '43, there was an observation post not far from the Assistent Wedana's (native Asst. District Officer) office. This post was constantly manned by Kaibodan personnel, who advised the Assistent Wedana when aircraft were sighted; the news was then communicated to the Japanese by telephone.

Airfield Activity: In Jul '43, Panasan airfield near Solo (Mid-Java) was being enlarged and asphalted. There were many dumps of building material there.

The following two reports are hearsay:-

Work was proceeding on a new strip near Manggohardjo village in Dec '43. This strip lies midway between Madioen (East Java) and Maospati (East Java). The second report deals with works of some description which were said to be connected with airfields, or defences, in the teak forest at Saradan, some ten kilometres east of Madioen (East Java).

## VII. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.

Lakes and Swamps: After the floods of Nov '43 at Temanggoeng (East Java), which reached the warehouse and town area, the Japanese assembled some 2,000 coolies (recruited and forced labour) at Popoh (south coast East Java), and began the excavation of a channel to connect Bening Marsh with the sea. In the dry monsoon this swamp sometimes dried out and could be crossed on foot. In the wet season it formed a considerable expanse of water; informant knows of an emergency landing by a Dutch seaplane or flying boat, during one such period, prior to the occupation. He heard that in the hilly section through which the channel had to be cut there was surface soil to some depth, then soft limestone rock, and underlying that a very hard black rock formation. Informant was told that the channel, when complete, would be five km long.

NEI Java 6203.

There was a great controversy among the Temanggoeng Indonesians as to the reason for this work. Some held that it was part of a secret Japanese plan to form a harbour basin in the present swamp, which some believed was below sea level. Others believed that the channel was intended to prevent floods and to drain a lot of valuable land in the swamp area. Informant heard that the seaward end of the proposed channel entered deep water (see also Compilation of NEFIS Interrogation Reports Nos. 295, 330 and 334).

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VIII. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION. SECRET

General Living Conditions: During '43, in the Karangpandan section of Solo district (Mid-Java), there had been no great change in living conditions, apart from the rationing of rice, which was instituted during the second half of that year. Consumption of rice was then limited to two cents' worth per head per day. This amounts to about half a litre in volume. Clothing was unobtainable, but in other respects informant considered that the country folk here had not been affected by the Japanese occupation.

Security Regulations and Censorship: Up till Sept '43, Indonesians were unimpeded in their movements in the Toeloengagoeng (East Java) area. In Tjampoerdarat-Popoh area (East Java) entry was forbidden except to labour engaged in excavating the channel to connect with the sea. (See Section VII).

An informant who was in the Toeloengagoeng-Kediri (East Java) area states that soon after the Japanese occupation an order was made, and enforced, that wave lengths outside the limits of 40 to 120 metres were forbidden. Informant states he was forced to work for three days sealing up wireless sets in the Toeloengagoeng district. Subsequently frequent surprise visits were paid by a Japanese soldier from Kediri (East Java) who would examine seals and indicator needles of sets. Informant claims that he was capable of defeating the design of the Japanese without breaking the seals, or bending the indicator needles. However, he never did so, being afraid of spies and informers. Sometime in '43, the authorised wavelengths were changed and limited to 39 to 40 metres only; this was still the position when informant left Java in Jan '44.

Relation between Japanese and local Population: No Japanese had been stationed in the Karangpandan area of Solo district (Mid-Java) up to the end of '43. Therefore, the people of that district showed no reaction to the Japanese occupation other than to grumble about the rice and clothing position.

An informant who left the Toeloengagoeng area (East Java) in Sept '43, states that until the Japanese began impressing the Javanese country people for labour, there was no real hostility shown. There was some discontent, however, with the position of rice supply and the shortage of clothing. Informant's impression at the time of leaving Toeloengagoeng area was that the villagers would welcome a return of former conditions and give assistance to an Allied invading army.

An informant who was in Solo (Mid-Java) from Mar '42 to Jul '43, and in Malang (East Java) up to Jan '44, states that he noticed several Chinese collaborating with the Japanese, and functioning as interpreters.

Civil Government of Occupied Areas: According to an informant, who left the Toeloengagoeng-Kediri area (East Java) in Sept '43, the nature of appointments and duties of Indonesian Government officials had not been varied by the Japanese. The Japanese used the following titles:-

Regent is now called Kentjo;
Wedana (Native District Officer) is now called Goentjo;
Assistent Wedana (Native Assistant District Officer) is now called Sontjo;
Loerah (village head) is now called Gutjo.

The Japanese term for the civil police force is Djunsa.

Taxes: In the Solo (Mid-Java) area there was general resentment against the Japanese measure of advancing by six months the due date for payment of land tax; the tax itself remained unchanged.

Organisations (Formed, sponsored or encouraged by Japanese):

Military: It is said that whilst there were no organisations in the more remote areas around Solo (Mid-Java) in Aug '43, there

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was a Kaibodan troop at Karangpandan (Solo, Mid-Java), numbering about 70 youths between 17 and 18 years old, who drilled with bamboo sticks, assisted in A.R.P. work, and acted as spies for the Indonesian Field Police. It was understood that these youths would enter the Soekarella when their training was complete.

Health and Sanitation: Conditions of the labour force at Popoh (East Java) in Sept '43, were said to be very bad (see Section VII). To cope with malaria, which was the main cause of sickness, the Japanese established a clinic, but the sick were allowed to lie and die in their beds. Deaths averaged two to three daily.

Medical Treatment and Supplies: The clinic at the sugar factory at Modjopanggoeng (East Java) continued to operate with the same Javanese medical orderly in attendance.

## IX. ECONOMIC INFORMATION.

### Agricultural Commodities:

Production: The enforced planting of djarak (castor) in the Solo (Mid-Java) district was a complete failure owing to the apparent unsuitability of local conditions. In many cases the plants died off when small, and in no case was any crop obtained.

An informant knows of European owned areas of rubber in the Tanggoel (East Java) district which had not been tapped since the Japanese occupation.

After the Japanese occupation, the Dutch management of sugar mills in Modjopanggoeng, Kalangbret and Toeloengagoeng areas (East Java) was permitted to complete the season's crushing for '42. No crushing or planting was done in '43.

Price: Prices paid for the impressed portion of the paddy crop, delivered at the warehouse of the Japanese authorities in Djoemantono (Mid-Java) were as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st grade: | f2.50 per picul (136 lbs). |
| 2nd grade: | f2.00 per picul (136 lbs). |

Fibre: In Sept '43, the former sugar land in the Modjopanggoeng, Kalangbret and Toeloengagoeng areas (East Java) was planted with rami (fibre), but not to the full extent of the areas. It is understood that under this new agreement a larger rent was paid to the owners. The exact figure, however, is unknown.

General Products: In the Karangpandan, Solo (Mid-Java) area during the period Mar '42 - Aug '43, both the former Dutch coffee plantation "Kamoening" and the Mangkoe Negoro's plantation "Gadoengan" were still in operation. Beans were cleaned and stored in the estate warehouses. The elderly Dutch manager of "Kamoening" had not been interned. One informant was paid at the rate of ten cents per half day's work as a coffee picker on "Gadoengan" estate.

Industries and Manufacturing: A Rosella (fibre) factory was opened at Wonosari (Mid-Java) during '43. This was a re-conditioned sugar factory. There were large Rosella plantations in the Solo (Mid-Java) area.

Of the coconut oil mills in the Toeloengagoeng (East Java) area, the former Dutch Olvado mill had not been re-opened by the Japanese, but the Japanese owned concern in Trenggalekweg was operated to a large extent by the original Japanese staff. The purchase of coconuts, except from an inhabitant of the same village, is only permitted to special buyers who hold sole rights from the Japanese for allotted areas.

### Minerals and Metals:

Mining Activities: In '43 an informant noticed an increased activity at the Gold and Copper Mine of Tirtomojo,



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Solo (Mid-Java). Another informant had heard that the labour force employed there, which was about 50 men pre-war, had been increased to about 600. Coolie wages were 25 cents per day.

Transportation:

Inland Rail: Sugar mill Toeloengagoeng (East Java): After the cane cutting season of '42, the Japanese took away two of the mills five locomotives and about 100 trucks. They also pulled up and removed portion of the decauville tracks.

Motor: In Sept '43, the former motor bus service between Toeloengagoeng and Kediri (East Java) had been discontinued.

In Malang (East Java) in Jan '44, the situation as regards bus services was as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Malang - Soerabaja | : discontinued. |
| Malang - Blitar | : discontinued. |
| Malang - Kediri | : discontinued. |
| Malang - Kepandjeng | : still operating. |
| Malang - Pasoeroean | : still operating. |

In Sept '43, the motor bus service Djember - Djatiroto (East Java) had been discontinued.

Utilities:

Power: Electricity in Malang (East Java) in Jan '44 was only available between 1800 and 0600 hrs.

In Toeloengagoeng (East Java) up to Sept '43 the charges and service for electricity were the same as pre-war.

Communications:

Telephone: For an unknown reason an original telephone at the sugar factory "Modjopanggoeng" (East Java) was observed to have been replaced in Sept '43 by a Japanese instrument.

Raw Materials: Shortage of coal may be indicated by the fact that in Jan '44 the locomotive which hauled the express from Malang to Soerabaja was fuelled by teak blocks.

Finance:

Currency: In the Djoemantono (Mid-Java) area, during '42, an order was made for the surrender of all silver coinage, under pain of death. The silver was paid in at the offices of the Assistent Wedanas in the various districts. The owners were questioned as to their normal annual expenditure; they were then handed Japanese paper currency to this amount. The balance of the money received in exchange for the silver was sealed in packets and held in trust for the owners by the Japanese.

Japanese control of Banking and Credit Investments: An informant saw, at the Tanggoel post office (East Java) in Sept '43, persons withdrawing and depositing at the Savings Bank. Savings Bank books bore a Japanese flag on the cover.

In Sept '43, the former Volks Crediet Bank (People's Credit Bank) in Toeloengagoeng (East Java) was known as "Siminginko".

Clothing: In the Malang area (East Java) during '43, clothing coupons were issued on the basis of two sets of clothing, or material for same, per household per year. One informant used a half year's ration for his family to obtain three and a half ell of thin green striped cloth. The cost of this was f2.75, about twice the pre-war price.

General Economic Situation in Occupied Areas:

Black Marketing: The father of one informant, who, up to Jan '44, was living at Soemadjang (East Java), was a tobacco

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trader, but had been refused a licence by the Japanese. He then dealt on the black market with goods smuggled from other districts. Apparently profits were small, as a bolt of approximately 3 kilos of tobacco yielded only 50 cents profit, the original cost being f2.50. It was thought that the lack of cloves for mixing with the tobacco was the cause of the falling off of trade.

X. PROPAGANDA AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE INFORMATION.

Enemy:

Non-Radio Propaganda:

Posters, Pamphlets and Leaflets: The latest poster seen by one informant depicted the Allied flags being over-run by a tank.

Newspapers: In Malang (East Java) a periodical named "Penjoeloeh" was on sale for four cents. It was said to consist of a single sheet, but informant had no knowledge of its contents.

A periodical named "Asia Raja" was on sale in Tanggoel (East Java) during '43 for seven cents. It was said there were very few buyers.

XI. ATROCITIES.

A. Factual: Bawoek bin Setosetiko, Fus. L.M.N. No. 40354, Javanese, states that about fifteen days after the American landing on Biak Island, he saw a Javanese Hei-Ho from Malang (East Java) named Kardi, killed in the Sordio area, by a Japanese Gotjo, named Koboebo. Kardi, who was starving, had stolen a biscuit, a small portion of which was found in his pocket. Kardi was beaten almost to unconsciousness and then made to squat on the edge of a small stream. He was thrust through the back with a sword and pushed into the stream. When the victim was pulled out by his comrades he was dead. Kokoebo was still at large when informant escaped on 22 Jul '44. Signed and sworn statement is in possession of NEFIS.

B. Hearsay: Fus. Soepadi L.M.N. No. 6003, Javanese, states that when at Biak in Jul '44, he heard from one Widji, since killed during an American attack, that a Javanese named Soekarti was bayonetted to death by Japanese Cpl. Kokubu, when the latter caught Soekarti in the act of stealing bread.

XII. PERSONALITIES.

Japanese Army Personnel: Manokwari (Dutch New Guinea) Jul '44:

| | |
|---|---|
| Sgt. | Machusuma; |
| Pte. 1st class | Isada; |
| Private | Manaka; |
| Private | Samada; |
| Private | Nahamura; |
| Private | Odjawa. |

Military Police (Kempei): One hundred Kempei were said to be quartered in part of Fort Fastenburg on the south side of Gladakweg, Solo (Mid-Java), in Nov '43.

Civil Officials: In Solo (Mid-Java in Jul '43, most of the former civil servants were still in office. Informant however, only remembered one name, Regent Kartonegoro.

According to an informant who left Toeren, Malang (East Java) in Jan '44, the Regent, Wedana and the Assistent Wedana of Toeren district were pro-Japanese. They were instrumental in forcing the people to join various Japanese sponsored organisations and were very strict in the enforcement of the regulations of planting of castor seed plants instead of rice. They continued to use cars. Informant does not know their names.

The Wedana of Tanggoel (East Java), at the time of the Japanese occupation, was arrested and accused by the Japanese of

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having a secret radio, and of having received and secreted enemy (Allied) property.

Civilians: Up to Aug '43, the Dutch manager of "Kamoening" coffee estate, Karangpandan, Solo, named Blommenstein, was permitted to continue as manager. He was provided with a Japanese brassard.

The leading Chinese in Tanggoel area (East Java), named Tjim Hoea, was still in possession of his properties when an informant left the area in Sept '43.

Two Dutch people were allowed to retain their positions in the sugar factory at Modjopanggoeng (East Java) after Japanese occupation. They were Mrs. Spruit, (whose husband was serving in the Militia and is believed to be a PW), and a Dutchman named van Eerzel, who was plantation assistant at the above factory. The latter's services were retained by the Japanese for some time until he was ultimately sent to Malang. Informant later heard that van Eerzel was free and was working for the Japanese. Mrs. Spruit worked in the office of the sugar factory until '43, and was then transferred to Malang (East Java), where informant saw her at large; she told informant that she was employed as a cashier at another sugar factory.

XIII. GENERAL.

Forced Abduction of young girls: On the order of the Assistent Wedana of Ngargojoso, Solo (Mid-Java) a number of young girls were assembled, of whom five were selected and forcibly taken to Solo by the Japanese. Informant did not actually witness this, but knows for certain of the incident, which took place in the first half of '43. He knows of one girl, aged 14, named Waginem from Kampoeng Plawan (Mid-Java) who was taken. This girl was sent back to the village shortly after, infected with venereal disease.

Collaborators: According to an informant, the undermentioned individuals worked for the Kempei in Toeren near Malang (East Java). Their reports were made to the Japanese in Malang, there being no Kempei office in Toeren.

Doerachman, approximately 25 years old;
Dosoep, approximately 33 years old;
Biran, approximately 40 years old.

Women's Internment Camp: The existence in Jun '44 of the camp at Malang as shown in NEFIS Map 5218, is confirmed. Informant further states that female Javanese provision vendors were daily allowed into the camp, where a market had been established for the internees.

Lt. Cdr. J. C. Smit.
Deputy Director NEFIS.

Camp Columbia, 23rd October, 1944.

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