

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

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 ATTACHMENTS
 THEATRE SEAC

1. Informant is a 23-year old Singapore-born Malay, who left school and 1933 and shifted from job to job until 1939, when he joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in 1939. He was captured and imprisoned by the Japanese after his ship was sunk in 1942, but escaped in June of that year. From May 1943 he worked for the Japanese as a sailor until his last ship was sunk. He is considered above the average in intelligence and observation, but overly eager in his responses about the attitudes of large groups.

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CULTURE

2. News was disseminated in Singapore by newspaper and by word of mouth. There were two Malay papers as well as Japanese newspaper, about which the informant knew nothing. They were the UTUSAN MALAYA and the SOMBAGA MALAYA, and under the Japanese shifted from being morning papers to the evening. They were printed in Arabic script in conformity with Japanese regulations requiring its exclusive use.
3. Radios had been confiscated and the informant knew of no one who had a clandestine radio, and there was no information that anyone had ever listened to broadcasts from Australia.
4. From the age of eight children are forced to attend school until two years have been successfully completed. The terms last for only three or four months out of the year, and the curriculum consists almost exclusively of Japanese-language instruction. After the language is mastered, other subjects are taught. By this time the student is usually in secondary school.

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5. Regular adult classes were held in the schools, with Japanese language instruction sessions from 1300 to 1600 hours each day. Attendance is not compulsory. Most of the teachers were Japanese residents of Singapore before the outbreak of war.
6. The Japanese made extensive use of highly colored posters in their publicity campaigns. Attempts were made to ridicule the Allies leaders, and the weakness of Allied weapons in contrast to Japanese armed might.
7. One poster depicted Churchill with the body of a pig, his face lightly covered by the Union Jack. In the same poster Roosevelt is shown with a dog's body. Ropes around their necks are held by a Japanese soldier, armed with a rifle with bayonet fixed. The legend was "English and Americans eat only potatoes and sago." The informant did not know what effect this poster had had.
8. Another poster, extolling the might of the Japanese Army, showed a Japanese soldier slashing through eight planes with a sword.
9. The Japanese told the people that the chief opponents were England and Australia, and many people believed that the United States was not really fighting, but was the production center for war materiel. As late as June, 1943, most people did not know that American forces were actually fighting. As a result of the loss of Sumatra, Java and the Netherlands, the Dutch were believed by most persons to have ceased fighting, and the informant was very surprised to find them engaged.
10. The Japanese appear to have made extensive use of Malays to speak in public on frequent occasions.
11. The informant was sure that the people of Singapore eagerly await the return of the Allies, and that the Chinese and Malays will cooperate in attempting to expel the Japanese when Allied landings occur.
12. There are many houses of prostitution and the Japanese girls in them are believed to be former residents of Singapore, and not to have been brought from Japan. There are also Malay and Chinese prostitutes, who apparently were not compelled to enter the houses. Venereal rates are supposed to have been kept down by the use of prophylaxis by Japanese soldiers and civilians both.

COMMUNICATIONS

13. All letters must be addressed in Arabic script or in Japanese.

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Stamps were issued by the "Republic of Malaya" with Japanese characters. Severe punishment was meted out for using "Singapore" in addresses instead of "Shonanto," culprits being tied facing the sun all day.

14. Moving from house to house in a village was forbidden until permission had been secured from the headman.
15. Each person in Singapore who was over the age of twelve years had to carry a pass,

ECONOMIC

16. The food supply was very scant in May and June of 1943, and the informant had heard of cases of starvation, although he had seen none himself. Tapioca was the main food item, and the rice ration was one-half gantang of rice per month, or about 3 3/4 lbs. (1 gantang = 6 catties; 1 catty = 1 1/4 lbs.)
17. Soap was scarce and of inferior quality. None was obtainable on the black market.
18. Cigarettes sold for S\$15 per package of fifty. They could be bought from Japanese soldiers for S\$12 and then resold on the black market. Small boys were usually used to make contact with the Japanese soldiers.
19. Japanese paper money was the only legal tender for purchases, and the smallest note in circulation was five cents.

MILITARY

20. There were many types of troops in the Hei-ho Camp, which was the training base for the troops of Bose's Army. These troops were sent for the most part to Thailand and Burma for duty.
21. A close friend of the informant was a captain in the Hei-ho Volunteers, and his name was used as designation for the company, and as the mailing address for the men of the company. The informant knew of no other identification for the unit.

POLITICAL

22. The headman of each village kept a book listing all inhabitants of each house in his village. The police performed this task in the cities.

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23. Persons going to and from Johore had their passes scrutinized. Passes of persons on the streets between midnight and dawn were also scrutinized.
24. The Japanese behaved very badly to the women in Singapore, although the informant had not witnessed the early days of the occupation himself. The informant's sister was dragged away into the woods by the Japanese and has never been heard of since, which was stated to have happened to many other girls.
25. The use of English expressions is strictly forbidden. The informant had known of people being punished for saying "very good" in English. People were ordered to say nothing good of the British or the Americans, and the punishment for doing so was supposed to be very severe,
26. The informant had heard that in nearly every house at least one large knife was concealed, for use in assisting an Allied landings. Many people are also supposed to have concealed blow guns and poison arrows.
27. The informant stated that his brother and uncle had said they would take positive action when the Allies land. Three Chinese friends had said the same thing. He asserted that most people would fight, but had no evidence to support this.
28. The informant also stated that former leading officials in the villages state to each other that they must be ready to assist an Allied landing, and he is convinced the Allies would have a friendly reception.

RELIGION

29. The informant stated that Muslims are forbidden to say their prayers, and the Japanese deliberately violated their sacred customs, among other ways, by regularly entering mosques with their shoes on.