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NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE BUILDING,
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10 MAY 1945

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5th May, 1945.

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COMPILATION OF NEFIS INTERROGATION REPORTS
NOS. 1590 - 1630 (NOT ISSUED SEPARATELY).

NOTE.

These reports refer to 41 refugees from Halmahera and adjacent islands who were interrogated on Morotai during Mar 45. Information is considered to be fairly reliable.

To facilitate reference the places covered in this report are listed hereunder by sections:-

III. TACTICAL DATA ON ENEMY MILITARY FORCES.

<u>Halmahera</u>	<u>Ternate and Tidore Islands</u>
Soepoe	Ternate
Cape Djodjefa	Tadoema
Kaoe	Togoheka
Galela	
Terroe Terroe River	
Posiposi	
Boeli Srani	

IV. SUMMARY OF NAVAL INFORMATION.

<u>Halmahera</u>	<u>Ternate and Tidore Islands</u>
Soepoe	Ternate
Cape Djodjefa	
Cape Bisoa	

V. BASIC AIR INFORMATION.

<u>Halmahera</u>	<u>Ternate and Tidore Islands</u>
Cape Djodjefa	Ternate

VIII. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION.

<u>Loloda Islands</u>	<u>Ternate and Tidore Islands</u>
Tobotobo Island	Ternate
	Soelamadaha
	Doefa Doefa
	Kg. Makassar
	Hiri Island
	Doroisah

IX. ECONOMIC INFORMATION.

<u>Halmahera</u>	<u>Ternate and Tidore Islands</u>
Soepoe	Ternate
	Tidore

X. PROPAGANDA AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE INFORMATION.

Ternate and Tidore Islands

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XII. PERSONALITIES.Halmahera

Teroe Teroe River

Ternate and Tidore IslandsTidore
TogohekaXIII. GENERAL.HalmaheraTatang
Loloda District
WyamliTernate and Tidore IslandsAmo
Loloda IslandsIII. TACTICAL DATA ON ENEMY MILITARY FORCES.Dispositions and Strength of Organisations and Units:

a. Kg. Kaee (1°10'N., 127°55'E), Wasile Bay, Halmahera, Mar 44: Approximately 5,000 Japanese Naval personnel, who were quartered at Kaee under the command of a Japanese Admiral (unidentified), transferred to a village in the neighbourhood subsequent to Allied air attacks. They were equipped with rifles and gas masks, 85 machine guns and a number of mortars. About 100 Naval personnel remained at Kaee to man seven 4.5 cm. A/A guns, model 29, located near the former Heiho barracks.

make new card Boeli Serani - Halmahera Is.

b. Boeli Serani (0°50'N., 128°18'E), and district, Halmahera, Jul 44: On the eastern slope of Watileo Hill, 8 km, northeast of Boeli Serani, there were about 600 Japanese armed with rifles, HMG's and MG's. (see item No. 5 on attached sketch NEFIS No. FY 5469). One 20 mm. A/A gun, model 98, was also located in the area. (see item No. 6 on sketch).

Behind the foreshore, in the vicinity of the village, a series of pits 1 x 1 x 1.20 metres, capable of accommodating one man, had been constructed over a front one km. long by 50 metres deep. (see item No. 3 on sketch). *F-0*

c. Teroe Teroe River (2°10'N., 128°00'E), northern extremity Halmahera, Mar 45: Four high ranking Naval officers, two radio telegraphists and four or five soldiers were quartered in a cave near the east bank of the Teroe Teroe River, about 2 km. south of the seashore. According to inf they comprised the staff of a W/T station, also located in the cave.

d. Kg. Soepoe (2°10'N., 127°58'E), northern extremity Halmahera, Mar 45: Between 50 and 70 Army personnel were quartered in a shed about 40 metres from Kg. Soepoe. The shed was located under a clump of bamboos and it was almost completely hidden from air observation.

e. Kg. Posiposi (2°10'N., 128°00'E), northern extremity Halmahera, Mar 45: There was no Japanese force in occupation.

Halmahera general and

f. Cape Djodjera (2°10'N., 128°05'E), northern extremity Halmahera, Mar 45: According to inf the Japanese vacated this area after several Allied bombardments had destroyed the entire camp and petrol stocks. About half of the weapons and equipment escaped damage. *F-0*

Kempei: Kg. Togoheka (0°35'N., 127°25'E), Tidore Island, Nov 44: A total of 32 Kempei and Minseibu personnel were employed at their headquarters in a well built concrete house with an atap roof close to the shore. The house was previously owned by a Chinese and according to inf was clearly visible from the air. Living quarters were located in two pondoks (sheds) constructed by the Japanese about 200 yards behind the headquarters and under some palm trees by which they were partly screened from air observation.

Names of Unit Commanders: Watileo Hill, 8 km. northeast of Boeli Serani (0°50'N., 128°18'E), Halmahera, Jul 44: Major General Ganaga (?) commanded the 600 Japanese Army personnel stationed on the eastern slope of Watileo Hill.

Auxiliary Troops: Heiho: Kg. Kae (1°10'N., 127°55'E), Wasile Bay, Halmahera, 42-44: Inf was impressed for service with Heiho and was given a course of training for one month with 160 other Indonesians who were subsequently sent to adjacent islands for duty on observation posts. They were paid at the rate of f12.00 per month.

Indications of Enemy Intentions and Movements:

- a. Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Nov 44: Demolition charges for use in event of an Allied landing had been attached to the K.P.M. (Royal Packet Navigation Company) wharf at Ternate. The wharf had suffered slight damage prior to the Japanese occupation.
- b. Kg. Soepoe (2°10'N., 127°58'E), - Galela (1°50'N., 127°50'E), Halmahera, Mar 45: There were regular patrols between Kg. Soepoe and Galela by parties of six to twelve Army personnel.

Supply Arrangements and Installations:

- a. Boeli Serani (0°50'N., 128°18'E), Halmahera, Jul 44: *Boeli Serani camp made in report* Two supply depots were located a short distance from the village on the eastern side of the M/T road running northeast to Watileo Hill. (see item No. 4 on attached sketch NEFIS No. FY 5469). F-0
- b. Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), - Tidore Island (0°40'N., 127°25'E), Nov 44: Quantities of vegetables, principally onions, grown by the native population under Japanese compulsion, were exported by prahoe to Halmahera about once a week.

Enemy Tactics and Methods: Boeli Serani (0°50'N., 128°18'E), and district, Halmahera, Jul 44: Hiding places for prahoes had been constructed at the mouths of the Gao, Gamesan and Watileo Rivers. On the latter river, similar provision had been made at a point about 4 km. upstream in the vicinity of the river junction (see item No. 2 on attached sketch NEFIS No. FY 5469).

Radar and Radio Stations:

- a. Kg. Tadoema (0°50'N., 127°15'E), West coast Ternate Island, Dec 44: Subsequent to the demolition of the station at Ternate, a W/T station had been erected in a space cleared of along along grass at the foot of the hills; it was manned by ten Japanese personnel.
- b. Tercoe Tercoe River (2°10'N., 128°00'E), northern extremity Halmahera, Mar 45: A W/T station was located in a bomb-proof cave about 2 km. south of the seashore and near the eastern bank of the Tercoe Tercoe River. The wooden mast, which should be visible from the air, was erected above the cave in an area which had been cleared by previous bombing attacks. According to inf the staff was comprised of four high ranking Naval officers, two radio telegraphists and four or five soldiers.

IV. SUMMARY OF NAVAL INFORMATION.

Ships Sunk or Damaged:

- a. Cape Bisoa (2°15'N., 127°55'E), - Cape Djodjefa (2°10'N., 128°05'E), northern extremity Halmahera, May 44: Inf saw one T.B.D. and one large Japanese transport with two funnels set on fire and sunk by shells, presumably from Allied warships beyond the horizon. It was stated that approximately 5,000 Japanese were drowned.

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b. Kg. Soepoe ($2^{\circ}10'N.$, $127^{\circ}58'E$), northern extremity Halmahera, late Jul 44: Four motorboats transporting troops from Kg. Kaee ($1^{\circ}10'N.$, $127^{\circ}55'E$), to Cape Djodjefa ($2^{\circ}10'N.$, $128^{\circ}05'E$), were attacked by Allied P.T.'s. off Kg. Soepoe. Two of the Jap craft were sunk and the others damaged. The troops were ashore during the attack.

In Mar 45 a large motorboat broke away from its moorings after 50 Japanese Army personnel had been disembarked at the village. It drifted to sea where it was sunk by an Allied P.T.

c. Ternate Island ($0^{\circ}50'N.$, $127^{\circ}20'E$), - Tidore Island ($0^{\circ}40'N.$, $127^{\circ}25'E$), Nov 44: Despite the repeated sinkings by Allied aircraft of prahoes carrying agricultural produce to Halmahera, the service was continued at weekly intervals. *Ternate card*

Navigational Aids:

Harbour Conditions: Ternate Island ($0^{\circ}50'N.$, $127^{\circ}20'E$), Nov 44: According to inf the K.P.M. (Royal Packet Navigation Company) wharf at Ternate was still in serviceable condition.

V. BASIC AIR INFORMATION:

Allied Air Attacks:

a. Cape Djodjefa ($2^{\circ}10'N.$, $128^{\circ}05'E$), northern extremity Halmahera, Aug 44 - Sep 44: Allied aircraft destroyed the Japanese camp, petrol stocks and about half of the supply and ammunition dumps. A W/T station was also demolished. *Halmahera general card*
F-0

b. Ternate Island ($0^{\circ}50'N.$, $127^{\circ}20'E$), Nov 44: Schools, churches and mosques were damaged and the military hospital was wrecked at Ternate Town during Allied air attacks in Oct 43. About 130 people were killed in an air attack on 17 Oct 43, while at a Chinese wedding where Japanese flags were used for the purpose of decoration. The majority of the Ternatese, Arab and Chinese population vacated the town after this raid and dispersed among the neighbouring villages and islands.

VIII. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION.

General Living Conditions:

a. Ternate Island ($0^{\circ}50'N.$, $127^{\circ}20'E$), - Tidore Island ($0^{\circ}40'N.$, $127^{\circ}25'E$), Nov 44: According to inf, living conditions were extremely bad. There was an acute shortage of food and the only vegetables available were grown by individuals for their own consumption. The market had been destroyed by bombing. Most of the cattle and goats had been requisitioned by the Japanese.

No clothing was offered for sale and the majority of the local people were reduced to garments made from gunny sacking. Those who were employed by the Japanese in other than coolie labour were permitted to purchase two metres of poor quality Japanese cloth per month. With care, this material was serviceable for two months. Women who were employed by the Japanese could purchase the same amount. It was common practice for the better class people to exchange stocks of old clothing for foodstuffs.

b. Tobotobo Island, northern Loloda Islands ($2^{\circ}08'N.$, $127^{\circ}45'E$), Mar 45: About 500 inhabitants from various villages in the Loloda district, northwest Halmahera, had assembled on Tobotobo Island. The food mainly consisted on sago, vegetables and fruit collected during return visits paid to the Loloda district. According to inf they were able to obtain sufficient food to avoid starvation.

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Relation between Japanese and Local Population: Hiri Island (0°55'N., 127°20'E), - Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Jan 45: The inhabitants of Doroisah Village (0°55'N., 127°20'E), on the south of the island of Hiri, were mainly pro-Japanese. According to inf, their attitude was dictated by fear of Moehimo Mohd Bobo, the village head. The inhabitants of all other villages on Hiri Island were said to be definitely pro-Allied and ready to resist the Japanese as soon as arms could be made available.

The village of Soelamadaha (0°55'N., 127°20'E), opposite Kg. Doroisah on Ternate Island, was also said to be pro-Japanese. The inhabitants of Kg. Doefa Doefa (0°50'N., 127°25'E), on the north-east coast of Ternate Island, and Kg. Makassar (0°48'N., 127°25'E), in the vicinity of Ternate Town, were also said to be pro-Japanese.

Another inf stated that contrary to the present general pro-Allied feeling, the lower class inhabitants of Ternate and Tidore Islands, including the police, were unanimously pro-Japanese when the Japanese landed in Apr 42. Large crowds waved white flags and shouted welcomes. The better classes held aloof from these demonstrations. The Chinese appeared to be greatly distressed by the arrival of the Japanese, but the Arab population took the line of least resistance and joined the pro-Japanese element.

Civil Government of Occupied Areas: Soelamadaha Village (0°55'N., 127°20'E), Ternate Island, Jan 45: An Ambonese policeman named Johan Monigrapon was quartered at the village.

Taxes: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Tidore Island (0°40'N., 127°25'E), Nov 44: For some time after the Japanese occupation the rates and periods of taxation were unaltered. Later, however, taxes increased progressively. After the Allied air attacks in Oct 43 taxation ceased.

Civil Service, Courts etc: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), - Tidore Island (0°40'N., 127°25'E), Nov 44: The Indonesian President of the Landraad (District Court) on Ternate Island, Dano Djainal Abidin Altin, was suspected of pro-Allied sympathies and interned somewhere in the Djailolo district (1°05'N., 127°25'E).

The civil administration was in the hands of the Minseibu Indonesian police, who adopted a particularly harsh attitude towards the population. There were no courts of justice or trials and all offences were dealt with summarily by the Minseibu police and Kempei.

Minseibu and Kempei headquarters were located at Kg. Togoheka (0°35'N., 127°25'E), on Tidore Island.

Inf was unable to state the rates of pay received by civil servants in Japanese employ but was told that those who were employed in various other concerns under Japanese control, and also police, were paid on the 25th of each month. The police received f15.00 per month.

Education: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Nov 44: The schools, which had been closed in Oct 43 after Allied air attacks, had not been re-opened.

Religious Services: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Nov 44: Churches and mosques had not been re-opened since the Allied air attacks in Oct 43.

Medical Treatment and Supplies: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Nov 44: After the demolition of the military hospital by Allied air attack in Oct 43, no organised medical treatment was available on the island.

IX. ECONOMIC INFORMATION.

Agricultural Commodities:

Production: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), - Tidore Island (0°40'N., 127°25'E), Nov 44: No rice was grown on

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the islands. Quantities of vegetables, grown under Japanese compulsion, were exported to Halmahera weekly in two prahoos. The greater part of the vegetables consisted of onions for which the island of Tidore is noted. Other products included cucumbers, spinach and aubergine.

Utilities:

Power: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), - Tidore Island (0°40'N., 127°25'E), Nov 44: No electric current was available after the destruction of the power station on Ternate Island. Coconut oil was used for lighting purposes.

Food:

a. Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), - Tidore Island (0°40'N., 127°25'E), Nov 44: Inf gave the following comparison of prices paid for food by the Indonesian population:-

	<u>Pre-War</u>	<u>Nov 1944.</u>
Eggs, each (rarely available)	2 cents	10 cents
Fowls, each	25 "	f 1.00
Bananas, per bunch	25 "	f 1.00

b. Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Nov 44: Indonesians were not permitted to catch fish for their own consumption. When fish supplies were required the Japanese exploded dynamite in the water. Such Indonesians as assisted in the collection of the stunned fish were allowed to retain a very small quantity of the smaller variety.

The industry was controlled by the T.S.K. (Toindo Suisan Kaisha) and the local agent was a Japanese named Tanaka who maintained an office near the former K.P.M. (Royal Packet Navigation Company) wharf. Ternatese employed by this concern were issued with a ration card which permitted the holder to buy a quantity of fish.

X. PROPAGANDA AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE INFORMATION.Allied:Non-Radio Propaganda:

Leaflets and Pamphlets: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), - Tidore Island (0°40'N., 127°25'E), Nov 44: According to one inf, the morale of the population was greatly improved by the receipt of leaflets and pamphlets dropped by Allied aircraft. He stated that pro-Allied feeling was high in anticipation of an Allied landing. Those who were found to be in possession of leaflets were decapitated.

XI. ATROCITIES.

A. Factual: Kg. Wyamli (1°00'N., 128°40'E), Boeli Bay, Halmahera, Feb 45: Inf Djahim bin Sembahjang, civilian, states that he witnessed the shooting of a Javanese by Japanese soldiers at Gaifoeli, about 1½ hours march from Kg. Wyamli. A number of villagers from Kg. Wyamli and elsewhere, who were hiding at Gaifoeli fled at the approach of the Japanese, who fired at three Javanese, killing one.

B. Hearsay: a. Kg. Tatang (1°31'N., 128°25'E), Halmahera, Aug 44: Inf was told by an Indonesian named Tengahari that the latter's wife had returned to the deserted village of Tatang, where she was found by some Japanese and summarily shot.

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b. Loloda District (2°08'N., 127°45'E), Halmahera, Feb 45: Inf heard that one of his former labourers named Saubasi was discovered by Japanese while he was searching for sago and was shot forthwith. Two unnamed Indonesians from Kg. Gisi (2°08'N., 127°55'E), witnessed the occurrence.

XII. PERSONALITIES.Army Personnel:

a. The following personnel of the Motai-tai Butai, No. 10450, were located at Halmahera in Feb 45:-

Motai	Captain.
Wako	2nd Lieutenant.
Oeshi	" "
Tjoebokawa	" "
Ashi Ngawa	Sergeant.
Obata	Soldier 1st class.
Jama Oetji	" " "
Kamada	" " "
Ajo Ama	" " "

b. An inf saw the following personnel at the W/T station near the east bank of the TerceTerce River (2°10'N., 128°00'E), in Mar 45:-

Dr, Soeski	
Nanangta	Soldier.

Military Police:

Kempei: Kg. Siwasoe, South Loloda Islands (1°40'N., 127°30'E), Nov 44:

Ogitan	} All of Kempei-tai. From Galela (1°48'N., 127°50'E), visited Kg. Siwasoe on various occasions, when they seized goats, fowls and rice. They also impressed large numbers of men from the South Loloda Islands and transported them to Galela.
Lakamura	
Nakamura	
A L/Cpl. (name unknown)	

Minseibu: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), - Tidore Island (0°40'N., 127°25'E), Nov 44:-

Idi	Japanese Minseibu official at Kg. Togoheka (0°35'N., 127°25'E).
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XIII. GENERAL.

Looting: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Apr 42: During organised looting by the Japanese forces the bank and commercial houses were wrecked and a quantity of Dutch money was removed.

Prostitution: Ternate Island (0°50'N., 127°20'E), Nov 44: Shortly after the occupation of Ternate Island the Japanese established a collection and distribution centre for young women intended for prostitution. Two large brothels were organised and women of various races, including Menadonese, Javanese, Sumatrans, Chinese and Eurasians, were despatched to Halmahera, Ambon and other locations. Local young women were forcibly conscripted. As single women only were eligible, the marriage rate increased rapidly.

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Crash Landing by Australian Pilot: Kg. Amo (0°54'N., 127° 20'E), Ternate Island, Mar 45: Two infs stated that an Australian pilot crash landed near Kg. Amo and was interned in Fort Oranje. He had been seen subsequent to his capture and appeared to be well cared for and in good physical condition.

Director NEFIS

S.H. S P O O R
Col.GS.R.N.I.A.

Camp Columbia, 5th May, 1945.

Enclosure:

NEFIS Sketch No. FY 5469 - Boeli - Serani
(Halmahera).

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