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U.S. OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
Psychological Warfare Team
attached to
U.S. Army Forces C-B-I
APO 689

JAPANESE
PRISONER
OF WAR
JPOW #48

PLACE INTERROGATED: Combat Headquarters
DATE INTERROGATED: August 8, 1944.
DATE OF REPORT: September 4, 1944.
BY: T/4 Akune, Kenjiro

NAME OF POW: MIYAMOTO, Kikuye
RANK: Nurse (Korean)
AGE: 28. Born in Manchuko.
ORGANIZATION: Second Field Hospital. Arrived in Burma in August 1942.
HOME ADDRESS: Heijo, Korea.
OCCUPATION: Nurse
EDUCATION: Six years Grammar School and one year training at Nurses' training School, Heijo, Korea.

MARITAL STATUS: Single. Mother and Sister are living.
DATE OF CAPTURE: About August 3, 1944.
DATE OF ARRIVAL AT HQ: August 1944.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE:

Captured in the company of "the Korean Comfort Girls" when Myitkyina fell.

EVALUATION:

The most valuable information given by the POW was about the discrimination against Koreans by the Japanese. She is happy to be a POW of the Allies, because she knows now that they treat her better than the Japanese did. Since she was in the Japanese Hospital, she overheard many interesting things about the military and she has given much information that most soldiers didn't know. For example the new fighter known as the DAI TOA KESSEN KI. This plane is known to be the best plane Japan has today.

INFORMATION & PROPAGANDA:

News:

"I would find time to read papers. I'd also managed to catch up with my sleep somehow."

Leaflets:

"I saw leaflets saying: 'Come out because many of your comrades are with us and getting good treatment', and in Hukawng valley I saw a leaflet about the annihilation of the 55th and the 56th regiments. A number of Kiku unit (18th Division) said the leaflet was very well written, so it must be written by one of our good writers who has been captured by the enemy. I didn't

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care about such things too much, for it didn't matter who took hold of Korea. Till now, Koreans were treated very badly. Even if some other country took it over, we can't be treated much worse. There are many anti-Japanese movements in Korea. I was going to hide out with such a group. But my mother, finding out about my plan got scared that I would be killed and locked me up so that I could not go away with the anti-Japanese group. I believe this group is somewhere out in this area."

FIGHTING CONDITIONS:

Medical Care:

POW claimed that the doctors treated her like a dog and worked her like an animal. "The Japanese nurses that were with me, were sent to the rear for safety. However, they told me that I had to work till the last and die with the soldiers. Once I was sick with malaria and sleeping in bed; one of the girls asked the doctor to give me some pills and shots, but the doctor said I was just lazy and trying to be slack in my duty. He squirted water on me and made me wake up. I had to work as usual despite chills and fever. While other nurses did a regular nurse's work, I had to do the dirty work of washing dirty cloths and the gauze.

My pay was different too. While the Japanese nurses got about 150, I got less than a hundred. After all the other nurses were sent to safety, I had to continue working very hard. Even if the doctor had time to sleep, I didn't and couldn't once for about three days. I could not sleep because there was so much work. During that period if I found time to take a few winks I would wake up; but the doctor would immediately wake me. Once I got so mad, I told them I was going to become a POW. The doctor said go ahead. If the enemy ever catches you, they will rape you and kill you. That was one reason I was afraid when I was caught; but nothing happened; instead I got and am getting good treatment. Twice a year, all used to get a bonus, but for some time I did not get any. They discriminated against me because of my being a Korean."

"The soldiers used to make fun of me because I was Korean. When I listened to war conversation while giving treatments, the soldiers would get mad. They would chase me away saying that it wasn't anything for a woman to ponder. If there were certain news items that I did not hear, I would try and ask, but they gave me 'the dickens' for asking."

Air Support:

"I heard that around the beginning of September, new flyers direct from school were going to come to fly the planes that were over here. I had heard that they were also to bring some planes with them. There were two air pilots in the hospital, so I asked what was wrong with our air force and they said not to worry, because they were expecting 3,000 planes and pilots over here. I overheard that a plane called 'Dai Toa Kessen Ki', the best and the newest airplane was now in Singapore. It is claimed to have better speed and better performance than any other plane in the Japanese army. It is also known that this plane is the best the Japanese could ever build. That is how good they claim it is."

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GENERAL IDEAS:

Japan & Korea:

"Since Japan is a have-not nation, if the enemy struck first she would take a terrible beating; so she first went into Manchuria to get the raw materials needed to make war-machinery. After a while she fought with the Chinese to get ready; later, when she was ready, she struck at the United States. The war could have been avoided if Japan didn't want to fight. If Japan ever wins this war, Korea and the rest will get a real beating. They are that kind of people. If they win, it goes to their head; they like to show off. I am hoping that they will be utterly defeated. As I said, there are many great men hiding somewhere waiting for a chance to liberate Korea. Now I know I should have gone out of my home to join them. The Korean police are worse than the Jap police. They try to show that they are like the Japs or worse; this is done to try to show their loyalty to Japan. They should treat the people good, but they are just the opposite. Any person that works for the Japs for some time will become like them or worse. I know they will lose, for even in Myitkyina they said that the Japanese would win, but look what happened. The longer the war lasts the harder the Koreans will have to work. The Koreans get a small amount of food, a little clothing and are all sent out to the field to raise food. My mother always used to get mad and complain about the treatment; but if she would have been heard she would probably have been thrown into prison. The other day, 1st Lt. Tushida in the POW ward here asked me if all the soldiers were out of Myitkyina safely, so I told him that all were caught and should be coming here soon. He was really surprised, very surprised at what I had to say."

Germany:

"Japan won't have a chance to win in this war without the aid of Germany. Now that the Germans are losing in the European theater, Japan won't have a chance to win in this theater."

Americans, British & Chinese:

) "The Americans are 100 per cent better than the Japs.
) If the Americans ever get caught, they won't get this good treatment from the Japs. But I do know the Americans and the British are taken care of better than the Chinese. The captured Chinese are killed. I never saw it done, but I have heard that they were going to kill so many ever so often. There was a white man brought into the hospital once, and the doctor gave him the best treatment he could give. I don't like the Chinese because they are inhuman, reckless and rough. The same goes for the Koreans. I didn't like the Chinese ever since I was in Manchuria."

Treatment:

"The treatment I am getting here is much better than I have ever received. I don't think I am a prisoner of war. I am a prisoner, but I am much better off here than with the Japs."

Return to Japan:

"I really don't care to go back to Japan; instead, I should like to get married out here, and settle here. If they order me, I will go back; but otherwise no."

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