

Outpost Report WDC-289

Annotation Source: Seoul Metropolitan Archive

Annotation and Image Link: <https://archives.seoul.go.kr/item/97>

The Office of War Information (OWI) was a U.S. government agency, created for propaganda activities within and outside the U.S. during WWII. For efficient propaganda activities, direct interactions with the target audience were necessary. For this purpose, the OWI outposts were established in different regions. The OWI defined its target audience and set goals of its propaganda at its outposts in China, Burma (today's Myanmar), India, the Philippines, Japan, and Korea as follows: 1) Long-term propaganda to prevent Japan's influence from maintaining, expanding, and strengthening in its occupied territories; 2) Long-term propaganda toward Japanese civilians; 3) White and black propaganda with respect to the Japanese soldiers in each war theater, in cooperation with commanding officers of the theaters of war; 4) Propaganda toward local residents to make them solidify and cooperate with the Allied Forces in the U.S. occupied territories or where the U.S. forces were stationed; and 5) Propaganda activities to boost morale of the US troops dispatched overseas.

This document is a report from the OWI outpost in New Delhi on the interrogation of three local soldiers who were captured as POWs by Japanese troops. The soldiers eventually escaped together and surrendered to the Allied Forces. Two of them stated about Burmese women, who were recruited as nurses at first and then became "comfort women" for the Japanese military. While the Japanese troops recruited the local women purportedly to meet the need for nurses at first, but later the Japanese military forced the village heads to submit a list of young girls in each town. Later, the local women were forced to work in the "Comfort Unit." Those who did work as nurses originally were also coerced into serving in the military facility as "comfort women." The informants saw the local women as well as Chinese and Japanese "comfort women" on the streets of Maymyo. They added that they heard the local women were kidnapped by the Japanese troops.

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