

USAFFE Interrogation Report No. 128

Annotation Source: Seoul Metropolitan Archive

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In July 1941, the U.S. reorganized its forces in the Philippines into the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) to prepare for Japan's potential aggression in the region. Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan invaded the Philippines under US colonial rule. In response to Japan's invasion, the U.S. entered into an agreement with Britain, the Netherlands, Australia, and New Zealand to organize the South West Pacific Area command (SWPA) and to integrate the USAFFE into the SWPA for administrative operations. The SWPA collected various information regarding Japan while fighting against the Japanese military in the Asia-Pacific War. They collected information from local communities, interrogated Japanese POWs, and captured and translated Japanese documents. Various intelligence agencies produced a large number of reports based on interrogations of POWs.

This document is a USAFFE's report based on the interrogation of an American, Nathan Willian Talbot who fought as a guerrilla in the Philippines. The Japanese forces made air raids on major U.S. air force bases and landed in the Philippines in December 1941. At the time, the Japanese soldiers committed indiscriminate murders and sexual violence. Wartime sexual violence continued to be perpetrated on an institutional level during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Talbot, the informant said that due to a rising incidence of venereal diseases in Manila in 1944, the Japanese military set up many "comfort houses" and employed both "Japanese and Filipina girls." The report adds that some of these houses were solely for Japanese soldiers. It is noted that in the Philippines during the Japanese occupation, there were about fifty "comfort stations" in various cities, including twelve in Manila. It was confirmed that the Japanese, Korean, and Chinese "comfort women" were brought to those "comfort stations."

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