

## Compilation of NEFIS Interrogation Reports Nos. 450, 538, 553, 555, 580, 583, 585, 589 and 593 (Not Issued Separately)

Annotation Source: Seoul Metropolitan Archive

Annotation and Image Link: <https://archives.seoul.go.kr/item/3>

In December 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and quickly advanced to occupy the regions of what is now Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei. Before the occupation, these areas were under Dutch rule, called Netherlands East Indies. Immediately after Japan occupied the hitherto Dutch-ruled regions, the Dutch forces established an intelligence agency, *Netherlands East Indies Forces Intelligence Service (NEFIS)*, to conduct intelligence operations in the regions. It is noteworthy that Japanese Forces had prevailed in the former Netherlands East Indies except for some places such as Borneo Island until the Allied Forces arrived to take over Japan's Regional Headquarters following the Japanese emperor's surrender announcement.

For this reason, NEFIS' "comfort women" related documents do not include interrogation reports on surrendered Japanese soldiers unlike most of the reports made in other regions after the war. Instead, NEFIS collected various information regarding "comfort women" and "comfort stations" in the former Netherlands East Indies and published them in the form of interrogation reports. The information gathered was mainly based on testimonies from residents who were the forced laborers, those escaped from the Japanese military bases, or those who were rescued from the sea. The reports also contain information about the enemy's strategies, political and economic conditions, propaganda, and psychological warfare. Details on "comfort women" and "comfort stations" are found in the 'General' section.

This document is the Compilation of Interrogation Reports Nos. 450, 538, 553, 555, 580, 583, 585, 589, 593, dated December 27, 1944. The reports gathered in the compilation were based on the interrogations of the residents who were forcibly conscripted into the Heiho Unit, a unit created by the Japanese military to exploit the labor of local residents. According to this report, there were "comfort stations" in Batavia, West of Java, as of June 1943 and the women who worked in the facilities were Japanese, European, and local women. The report specifies the ethnicities of the women in some "comfort stations" in the region: for example, there were Japanese women only in the "comfort stations" located in Gang Chaulan while European and Javanese women were deployed in the "comfort stations" of Tanah Abang Oost. According to the report, an informant stated that he was not sure if those women were forced to work in the facilities, and that all those women were given medical exams at C.B.Z. Hospital on Orange Boulevard once a week. The Japanese "comfort women" appeared on the document may have been Koreans as the local informants interrogated by NEFIS could not possibly distinguish Japanese from Koreans. The medical exams for those women appears to be tests for venereal diseases, which were commonly conducted on the "comfort women."

Contributors:

[Organization] Chin-sung Chung Research Team, Seoul National University, 2015~

[Organization] Women and Family Policy Affairs Office, City of Seoul, 2011~

[Organization] National Archives and Records Administration 1934~