

## Compilation of NEFIS Interrogation Reports Nos. 1590-1630

Annotation Source: Seoul Metropolitan Archive

Annotation and Image Link: <https://archives.seoul.go.kr/item/55>

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.

NEFIS collected and published various information regarding "comfort women" and "comfort stations" in the abovementioned regions 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 NEFIS Interrogation Reports, Nos. 1590-1630, dated May 5, 1945. The reports gathered in the compilation were based on interrogations of 41 refugees from Halmahera and adjacent islands. The reports state that shortly after the occupation of Ternate Island, Japanese troops established a center to conscript and distribute "comfort women." Also, two large "comfort stations" "*were organized and women of various races, including Menadones, Javanese, Sumatrans, Chinese and Eurasians, were dispatched to Halmahera, Ambon, and other locations.*" The reports also mention that as unmarried young women were exclusively subject to forced conscription, the marriage rate in the islands increased rapidly.

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