

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

ARCHIVES

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION

FILE PLG
(Yap)

ACCESSION No.

1921-237

INDEXED

SUBJECT: PORT OF YAP

DECLASSIFIED LAW DOD MEMO OF 3 MAY 1972, SUBJECT
DECLASSIFICATION OF WWII RECORDS.

INDEXED

ROUTE SLIP

19 Dec. 1921

G File No.	File in	Accession	File No.
	A	1921-237	<u>PLG</u> (Yap)

Referred to	For*	Initials
President (Aide)	V	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
Chief of Staff	V	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
Command Department	V	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
Strategy Department	V	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
Tactics Department	V	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
Correspondence Department	V	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
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Mr. Scammell	V	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
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- * V - for information
- * A - for action or preparation of answer.
- * R - for retention.

Please initial and forward to next addressee indicated, last addressee to return papers to secretary unless marked for retention.

Secretary. *[Signature]*

Department of Naval Intelligence

Intelligence

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returned to the Archives of Naval War College as soon

as it has served its purpose.

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Section: Op-16-C

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

1921-237 PLG

RHG:MKM
(Yap)

No.

WASHINGTON (Date:) 15 Dec., 1921.

TO: Operations (Plans - Capt. Freeman).
Operations (Communications - Capt. Bryant).
General Board.
Naval War College. ✓
Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet.
Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet.
Source: "Commanding Officer, U.S.S. BITTERN," 12 September, 1921.
Subject: PORT OF YAP.

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
ARCHIVES
RECEIVED
DEC 19 1921

4-3046

The following report on the above subject has been received and is quoted for your information:

"PORT OF YAP"

MILITARY

- (a) There are no fortifications and arsenals.
- (b) No troops are stationed in Yap. The H.J.M. Ship "HIIJ MATSUE" was lying in port. It was understood that she was on surveying duty.
- (c) There are no naval bases or mine depots.

ENGINEERING

- (a) There are no repair facilities.
- (b) There are no coaling facilities.
- (c) No engineering supplies can be obtained.
- (d) There is no lighting system; but it is understood that a Diesel Engine plant will be installed in the near future.

SUPPLY

- (a) There are no firms that are reliable for Government contracts.

(b) The food supplies are very limited. Hogs, chickens, oranges, bananas, pine-apples, yams and a few sweet potatoes can be obtained from the natives by barter.

(c) Importing and exporting is carried on by the South Seas Trading Company, and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, both Japanese companies.

Imports are mainly food-stuff for Government consumption, and articles of barter.

Exports are mainly copra, and native handicraft.

(d) Water is supplied by the South Seas Trading Company, who are acting for the German interest. Rain water is stored in an iron tank of about ninety (90) tons capacity. It is not good for drinking purposes. It may be obtained by going alongside dock at Tarang Island, or transported in ship's boats. Water has to be pumped by hand from tank to ship or boat.

COMMUNICATIONS

(a) There is a low-powered radio station that can transmit messages for short distances only.

(b) Cable office at Yap is in a dilapidated condition and very little work is being done to keep it up. No reliability can be placed in the proper transmittal of messages or the delay before message is sent.

(c) There is a trail about 8 to 10 feet in width extending all around the island. This was constructed by the Germans and partially destroyed by a typhoon in December, 1920, but is in a very good condition for marching or light transportation.

(d) No work is being undertaken under public works; and it was further stated that none would be undertaken until the Yap question was fully settled. Houses, etc., destroyed by typhoon, even to the houses occupied by the Governor, are not being repaired.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

(a) The Civil Government has recently taken over the Island from the Naval Government and the natives are not being molested as they were under the Naval Administration.

(b) The officials of Yap were very cordial in their reception of the officers of this vessel; and yet at the same time it was shown that we were under suspicion. A police officer accompanied the officers and Professor Hobbs wherever they went.

(c) Official calls were exchanged between the Commanding Officer and Commanding Officer of H.J.M. "HIJ MATSUE". The Commanding Officer also called upon the Governor and found him seriously ill. The call was returned by the Chief Police Officer.

AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES

(a) A Mrs. Scott, a British subject, it is believed can be relied upon to give any information requested. She is the half-caste daughter of D.D. O'Keefe, and is a very intelligent woman; being conversant in the English, German and Native languages and some Japanese.

(b) In the town of Tomil on the Island of Tomil it was found that the native chief, Tomilin, had been a mate on D.D. O'Keefe's ship about six years. He can speak English very well. He has the largest town outside of the main colony on Yap, is very friendly to Americans, stating that he hoped the Americans would take over the island and if he was called upon, would do everything he could, even to fighting if he had anything to fight with. He has about one hundred men between the ages of 18 and 35 inclusive. The entire male (native) population seems to be very friendly toward Americans and strongly against the Japanese.

(c) D.D. O'Keefe was an American citizen. "



L. McNamee,
Captain, U.S. Navy.
Director of Naval Intelligence.