

MISSING JAPANESE A YEAR-OLD PUZZLE

Point to Communist China
Clues to His Whereabouts

TOKYO (AP)—One of Japan's most intriguing mysteries is a year old. It concerns what has happened to Masanobu Tsuji, Member of Parliament and World War II military strategist.

Mr. Tsuji, then 60 years of age, left Tokyo about a year ago for what ostensibly was a 60-day tour of Southeast Asia. A month later his wife received a package from Bangkok, Thailand, containing his business suit, other clothing and personal effects.

There have been nothing but rumors since.

One unconfirmed report said Mr. Tsuji reached Vientiane, Laos, April 14, 1961, and left for Communist-held northern Laos five days later en route to Communist China.

The Tokyo Times recently published a report, which could not be confirmed, that Mr. Tsuji was teaching guerrilla warfare at a Communist military academy in Kirin in northeastern China.

It has also been rumored that Mr. Tsuji is under arrest in Communist China. The Japanese Red Cross has been in touch with Peiping officials in an attempt to confirm this. But a Red Cross official said "there has been absolutely no information."

"I've had no word at all," says Mr. Tsuji's wife, "and can't hazard a guess."

Though only a lieutenant colonel during World War II, Mr. Tsuji was credited with planning the Imperial Army's conquest of Malaya and Singapore and the unsuccessful defense of Guadalcanal.

He was accused by a former Imperial Army general of having planned the massacre of more than 800 Chinese in Singapore in February, 1942. The Allies termed him a war criminal.

When Japan surrendered, Mr. Tsuji disappeared. It later was learned that he had disguised himself as a Buddhist monk and wandered for years through Southeast Asia and China, returning to Japan after the charges against him were dropped.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT