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Lethality of bullets.

It is widely held in the Army that the .256 inch calibre bullet, weighing about .32 ounces, used by the Japanese army, is not very lethal. For instance, Military Training Pamphlet No. 52 (1942) p. 67 referring to the campaign in Malaya says "the enemy has .25 S.A.A. which inflicts only small wounds". The same view is heard frequently from Officers returned from the Far East.

On the other hand, there is no adverse criticism of the lethality of bullets of calibre .300 inches or larger, weighing about .4 ounces.

On the basis of the paper by Burns and Zuckerman, (M.H.S. R.C. 350), either bullet should be quite heavy enough to be effectively incapacitating.

The M.V. of the British .303 bullet is about 2200 p.f.s. The M.V. of the Japanese .256 is thought to be a little less.

It should be noted that the Italians also use a .256 bullet, but we have heard no comments on its lack of lethality.

We should be glad to hear any views on this subject. The belief appears to be quite fallacious, but is very widely held, and may affect policy.

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O. i/c. A.O.R.S. 6.

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WS.

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