

THE KINDNESS OF THE UZBEK PEOPLE TO THE JAPANESE PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE YEARS AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE SACRIFICE OF THE JAPANESE

Nazirhojaev Mukhamadalihoja Kasimhojaevich

mangu-bek67@mail.ru

Abstract

This article discusses the issue of the placement of prisoners of war in the territory of the Soviet state and Uzbekistan in the years after the Second World War. Analytical information on the conditions in the POW camps, the condition of the POWs, the medical and sanitary condition, the humane relations of the local population towards them, and the employment of the POWs in the national economy of the country are also given.

Keywords: World War II, POW Camps, Kwantung Army, Japanese POWs, Chuama Village, Special Convalescent Hospital, Medical Sanitation Service, Labor Camps.

As it is known, as a result of the end of the Second World War, many soldiers and officers of the rival countries were gathered as prisoners in the Soviet state. In addition, there were more than 500,000 soldiers and officers of the Japanese Empire's Kwantung Army. After the signing of the document acknowledging the defeat of the war by the Japanese government, the Second World War was officially considered to have ended, and until then, the Soviet army had carried out military operations in Mongolia, Manchuria, China and the north of the Korean peninsula, and the captured Japanese soldiers and officers were exiled to work in different regions of the country.

According to I.V. Stalin's order No. 9898 of August 23, 1945; Orders 500,000 soldiers and officers of the Kwantung Army to be involved in various tasks inside the country. One of the main reasons is that the POWs were involved in various jobs, the Second World War brought casualties to many countries, cities and villages were destroyed, and the number of people able to work in cities and villages throughout the USSR decreased dramatically. For this purpose, military camps intended for Japanese prisoners of war are being opened in different parts of the country. Such camps were also established in Uzbekistan.

In 1945-1950, military camps for Japanese prisoners of war and military hospitals for the treatment of prisoners of war were established in the Farhona Valley of Uzbekistan. Prisoner of war camps in the cities and villages of Andijan and Fergana regions of the Fergana valley, in particular, the main administration of the 26th military camp was established in the village of

Chuama, Izboskan district, Andijan region, and a division of the 26th military camp was established in the town of South Olamushuk, Jalalkuduq district.

The 3670th special rehabilitation hospital for prisoners of war existed in the city of Kokan. Prisoners of war suffering from serious diseases such as "perspiration" and "tuberculosis" were brought to this hospital and some of them died. German and Japanese prisoners of war, as well as Italian and Austrian prisoners of war were treated in the 3670th prisoner of war hospital. This hospital was located in the northern part of Ko'kan, 2000 meters away from the city. 709 prisoners of war of various nationalities were buried in the cemetery belonging to hospital 3670 located in the city of Jami Ko'kan¹. This cemetery is currently located in the brotherhood cemetery at the entrance to the city of Ko'kan from the Tashkent side.

According to Yakhyokhan Dadaboev, the first prisoners of war who were brought to the city of Ko'kan were soldiers and officers of the German army who arrived in 1942.² Prisoners of war were placed in buildings in the yard of the former Kokand District Governor's Office and the former E. Pugachyov and K. Marks streets. Later, Italian prisoners were also brought to Kokan. The captives were housed in various buildings in the cities where they were located, including: the Russian Drama Theater in Fergana, the former "Hydrolysis Town" "A.S. Pushkin" at the same time, 2-3-story residential buildings on A.Navoi street (these residential buildings were demolished at the same time thrown away), also participated in the construction of superphosphate, sugar factories in the city of Ko'kan, high-rise buildings on the current "Istiqlal" streets. Some of the buildings built by the Japanese in Kokan have been preserved. The buildings built by Japanese prisoners of war stand out from other buildings due to their strength and special construction methods.

Camp No. 387 of former Japanese prisoners of war in the city of Kokan, currently operates as a children's anti-tuberculosis sanatorium of Fergana region. This POW camp is located in the north of the city of Ko'kan, near the "Naymansoy" stream. It occupies an area of 3.9 hectares. Toychiev Shukrullo Melikozievich, born in 1962, who currently works as the head doctor of this sanatorium, said that the camp buildings were built in 1903.³ The buildings consist of one floor and the walls are one meter thick. The rooms of the building are built together with basements. The basements of the buildings were high enough for a person to walk comfortably. The camp also had summer terraces. Most of the buildings in the camp were demolished due to

¹ Russian State Military Archive (RSMA).

² Yakhyokhan Dadaboev is a leading researcher of the Kokan City Local History Museum. He has been working selflessly in this museum for many years. 2020. March.

³ Personal archive of Toychiev Shukrullo Melikozievich. May 2020

their old age, only the building at the entrance to the camp remains, which now serves as the head doctor's reception.

Many of the German and Italian prisoners of war suffered from various diseases before they arrived in Uzbekistan, unable to withstand the cold climate of Russia. Among them, 354 Germans and 72 Italians were buried in the Christian (Russian) cemetery near the city of Kokan. POW camp No. 387 in the cities of Fergana and Kokan was established on September 21, 1945, based on the order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR No. 001066. From the autumn of 1945, Japanese prisoners of war were brought and settled in the units of the camp. Prisoners of war, who were usually kept in camps in the valley, were often transferred to other camps. For example: they sent and received prisoners of war from camp units №26 in Andijan, to special rehabilitation hospital units №3670 in Kokon, from camp №387 in Fargan to camp units №26 in Andijan, as well as to other regions and republics.

"In the camps of Japanese prisoners of war, prisoners of Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Korean, Buryat nationalities who did not serve as soldiers and officers in the Kwantung Army were kept among the Japanese prisoners, they were kept as "white emigrants". Most of them were Bolsheviks who left the Soviet state for various reasons. These "white émigré" prisoners were kept in captivity until 1945 because of their cooperation with the Japanese intelligence administration in Manzhou-Go. For example, in December 1946, in echelon 97019 from the territory of the Primorsky Territory, counterintelligence officers of the State Security Service, under the supervision of Army Major General Kolchakovsky and Shulkevich Boris Ananevich, were sent to the rehabilitation camp No. 26, a member of the Japanese military mission (tokumu kikan-army intelligence organization) of Russian nationality born in 1885 Brought to Grodekovo. Such "white émigrés" used the captives to find out about the secret situation of the captives, to get information about who among the captives had an aggressive opinion against the Soviet system, and to provide secret information to the authorities about those who were carrying out propaganda against the Soviet government.

Japanese prisoners who were sick and exhausted from work were brought to camps №26 in Andijan and №387 in Fergana.

There are also Japanese POW camps in Kuvaso, where the labor of Japanese POWs was used in construction works. Babalbaev Farhod, chairman of Kuvaso city council of the "National Revival" party of the Republic of Uzbekistan, born in 1985, informed that Japanese prisoners of war participated in the construction of a cement factory located in this city and later worked in this factory, besides; Japanese prisoners of war took part in the construction of

buildings such as the building of the cultural center of the city of Kuvasoy heat grease (since 1963, a children's sports school), and the bureau of Kuvasoy city grease. Five of the Japanese prisoners of war who worked in the city of Kuvasoi died here, and the graves of the deceased Japanese prisoners of war are located in the Christian cemetery on the outskirts of the city, now in the border area with Kyrgyzstan.

80-year-old Saidokhunov Makhammadjon, one of the veterans of the city of Kuvasoy, recalls that he saw Japanese prisoners of war in his youth. In these lands, Japanese prisoners of war lived in semi-basements (zemlyanka) in the places allotted to them. This information is still being clarified.

Many of the Japanese prisoners of war were sick before they arrived in Uzbekistan. Many of them died of lung-tuberculosis (tuberculosis), gastrointestinal (dysentery) and skin-genital diseases. Of these, 240 Japanese prisoners of war died in the city of Ko'kan, and they were also buried in separate places allocated to them in the cemetery where German and Italian prisoners of war were buried. Because the religious beliefs of the representatives of this nation were different, they were buried separately. This cemetery has a separate area for representatives of three nationalities.

Japanese prisoners of war were also placed in Andijan region of Fergana valley. Prisoner of war camp No. 26 in Andijan province was one of the special camps, and more officers who worked in high positions in the Japanese army were sent to this camp. This camp was established in 1943 (May 13, 1943 on the basis of order No. 0061 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the UzSSR). About 2,500 prisoners of war were kept in this camp. it was possible to keep prisoners. Prisoner of war camp No. 26 in Andijan is divided into two parts.

1. It is located in Chuama village, Izboskan district, Andijan region, 15 km away from "Paytug" railway station. In the village of Chuama there are graves of 30 Japanese prisoners of war.

2. Division 1 of the camp is located in South Olamushuk village, Jalal-Quduq district, Andijan region. Unit 1 of this camp is located 7.5 km from the Grunchmozor railway station. About 700 Japanese prisoners of war were kept in the 1st division of the POW camp. They worked mainly in the construction of "Neftestroy" and in the construction of the South Olamushuk town, in the construction of the highway and bridges leading to the town, the winter cinema club in the town and the hospital in the town.

Japanese prisoners of war who died without being able to return to their homeland are buried in the following districts of Andijan region. Between 1945 and 1947, 4 people were

buried in South Olamushuk village of Jalalquduq district. Between 1945 and 1949, 30 people were buried in the village of Chuama, Izboskan district. When it comes to the cemeteries where Japanese prisoners of war were buried, by 1956, it can be seen that the graves of many Japanese are unknown, there are no tombstones with the name of the deceased, and the cemeteries have fallen into an abandoned state.

During the years of independence, such activities were put an end to, and the cemeteries were beautified with the care of our state and the efforts of our passionate compatriots. Sirojiddinov Mahsumkhoji, born in 1922, who was a leader in such works, identified the land where the graves of the Japanese prisoners of war were located in the village of South Alamushuk, Jalalkuduq district, and with the support of the Andijan region administration, he showed enthusiasm in placing gravestones for each of them and in carrying out improvement works on these lands. Until now, his son Sirojiddinov Najmiddin continues his work⁴.

Otakhonova (Uvaysiddinova) Sharifakhon, who lives in the village of Chuama, Izboskan district, Andijan region, testified that her father-in-law Qamariddin Khoji Uvaysiddinov remembers the POW camp located in this village and the events around it in his youth. "We were young children, at first German and Italian prisoners of war were brought here, they were tired from the journey and it was obvious that most of them were sick. We were afraid of the Germans, all the prisoners of war seemed to us to be Germans. Later, the structure of these lands was different, partly to our own people. They brought short prisoners who looked like them, and later we found out that they were Japanese from far away Japan. was"⁵.

Based on the above information, the following can be mentioned. Prisoners of war were victims of war, and they were forced to spend their lives in captivity in countries far from their homeland, but their life in captivity ended in 1956, just like every event has a beginning and an end to events. On December 23, 1956, the last 1,025 representatives of the Japanese prisoners of war were sent to their homeland from the Russian port of Nakhodka.

In 1949-1950, the activity of the camp was stopped, and the area where the camp is located was transferred to the society of the blind.

Nowadays, tourists from Japan and other countries come to Uzbekistan, especially to a number of cities of the Fergana Valley, to visit their compatriots. Improvement works are being carried out in the cemeteries of Japanese prisoners of war, who were buried here without being

⁴ Field records. Andijan region. South Olamushuk town, Jalalkuduk district. 2013.

⁵Otakhonova (Uvaysiddinova) personal memoirs of Sharifakhon.

able to return to their homeland. At the root of such cases lies the fact that feelings such as tolerance towards other nations and peoples are deeply rooted in the hearts of our people.

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