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The Japanese prisoners of war in Andijan region

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Abstract

The article attempts to provide analytical information on the causes of the camps for prisoners of war in the territory of Uzbekistan, including the Andijan region after the Second world war for Japanese prisoners of war, prisoners of war and interned camps in the Andijan region. The article also discusses the conditions of detention of prisoners of war and interned in camps, working conditions, sanitary and hygienic conditions, medical examinations of prisoners of war and interned. Use as a labor force of Japanese prisoners of war and interned in the construction of various residential buildings village, cities, various construction of educational facilities, roads, bridges and the national economy of the Andijan region, operational work against escapes, propaganda and agitation among prisoners of war in favor of the Soviet government in the military camps of the USSR and the region.

Keywords: The second world war, quantun army, japanese prisoners of war, war camp, accompany

Introduction

The Second World War left piteous trace in the human history, this war differs from other wars not only with quantity of victims, but also with the immense of the ruins. The questions about the Second World War were discussed in many books on one side, the main attention was paid to the victims and losts. After the war finished there is little information about the fate of the soldiers fought in the army of opponent side. Such information was mainly limited with the number of the prisoners in the war. The life and fate of the prisoners in the captivity remained unknown. During the years of World War II the history of the military camps established in the territory of Uzbekistan and the captives in them hasn't been studied specially as a fundamental research. It was a close theme in the time of the Soviet. V.P. Galitskiy ^[1] was the first to discuss this question. He studied the documents, concerning the Japanese prisoners of war, which were being kept at the state archive of Russia and gave the exact number of the Japanese prisoners of war who were brought to the territory of the former Union and died in the camps, and published the general information about them in his articles in a number of journals. S.I.Kuznetsov ^[2], who studied the problem of Japanese prisoners of war as a special research, analyzing the information in the archives of different countries, mentioned the numbers of the Japanese prisoners of war who died in the former SSSR and the names of the places where their graveyards were situated in. Depending on these analysis he created the map of the graveyards of the died former captives. M.A.Kuzmina ^[3], Ye.Yu.Bondarenko ^[4], A.A.Dolgolyuk ^[5], O.D.Bazarov ^[6], S.S.Bukin ^[7], S.G.Sidorov ^[9], Ye.L.Katasanov ^[10], who conducted research works on this theme and published a number of monographs, described the facts revealing the problems of the Japanese prisoners of war in the territories of Siberia, Krasnoyarsk, Far East of the Former Union on the basis of the documents in the central state archives and local archives. In Japan too many articles and books containing the memories of the Japanese prisoners of war were published. S.Kunio ^[11], S.Rokuro ^[12], I.Tadao ^[13], T.Takayosi ^[14], S.Ivao ^[15], S.Khisaya ^[16] can be mentioned among them. In addition, L.V.Mikheeva ^[17] and N.O.Dulatbekov were the first in Central Asia to give wide information about the Japanese prisoners of war in Kazakhstan, their exact number, their settlement in the camps, the food supply in the camps, medical service, illnesses, diseases and death among the prisoners, using the prisoners' labour in constructions and agriculture and the conditions returning the prisoners back to their countries using the documents being kept at the archives of Russia and the provinces.

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Literature review

In describing this study, the data being kept in the I.F.p. fund of the state military archive of Russia and the book by M.M.Zagorulko "Regional structures of NKVD-MVD SSSR. 1941-1951: Report information documents" are taken as the main source. After Uzbekistan acquired independence the attention to the life and activity of the prisoners of war was increased. In the years of World War II the Soviet government established more than 100 camps of the prisoners of war in the different territories of the country in order to keep and use the captives. It is known, the war can not be without victims, that's why in order to cover the number of the victims lost in the war partially, in the years after the war the labour of the prisoners of war (the interned) was effectively used. Although the war was finished with victory, the Soviet nation was tired, because of the lack of millions of people who went to the war and never came back, the agriculture and industry were quite in the back. On one side it seemed to be true to use the labour of the prisoners of war as the demand of that time. Taking them into account the policy of settling the prisoners of war (The interned) in the camps established in the different territories of the country was carried out. In the years of World War II together with many countries of the Union, in Uzbekistan the camps of the prisoners of war dependent on the Public Committee of Internal Affairs (PCIA) were established too. Like other regions of Uzbekistan the prisoners of war were settled in Andijan region too. The 26th camp of the prisoners of war in Andijan region was among the special camps, and mostly the soldiers who served in higher positions in Japanese army were sent this camp.

The special health camp in Andijan was established in 1943 (according to the order №0061 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of UzSSR). In this camp nearly 2500 prisoners (interned people) could be kept ^[1].

Because the 26th camp was a special health camp, at first the captives who got ill with the illnesses like "dystrophy", "dysentery", "camp fever (typhus)", "scab" were brought to this camp. Because of the attempts of the physicians these illnesses were stopped to be spread at the end of 1943.

At first German, Italian captives were kept at this camp, from the autumn of 1945 German captives were transformed to another camp as soon as the Japanese came to the camp. One of the main reasons for it was to prevent the German and Japanese prisoners of war from coming to an arrangement with each other.

The 26th camp of the prisoners of war in Andijan was divided into two sections:

1. In Andijan region, Izboskan district, Chuama village, 15 kms far from the railway station "Paytug".
2. The 1st section of the camp was situated in Andijan region, Jalolkuduk district, Janubiy Olamushuk village. This section was situated 7,5 kms far from the railway station "Grunchmozor". In this section about 700 Japanese prisoners of war were kept ^[2]. They, mainly, participated in the construction of "Oil system" and in building Janubiy Olamushuk town, in the construction of the main motorway and bridges leading to the town, in constructing works of the winter cinema club and the hospital in the town as well.

As Sirojiddin Hakimjonov, who was born in 1966 in Jalolkuduk district, Janubiy Olamushuk town, "Birlashgan" mahalla (neighbourhood) witnessed about the Japanese prisoners of war that his father Makhsumkhoji ota worked as the brigadier to them.

Makhsumkhoji ota remembers: about 700 Japanese prisoners of war (interned people) were brought here. We discovered the new land together, the conditions were very hard and it brought the tired and exhausted Japanese prisoners of war to lose their health and get ill. No matter medical help had been given, four of them died and stayed here ^[3].

Main part

In the 26th camp of the prisoners of war in Andijan, mainly, the soldiers who served in higher positions (Lieutenant, Mayor, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonels) in the Quantun Army were kept. The prisoners of war, mainly, worked in the fields in the territory of the camp, in building camps and in the fields growing agricultural products belonging to the camp.

The documents kept in the state archive of Andijan region Kurgontepa district are worth of attention because they are the documents about the native local people were appointed as the controller of the camp of the prisoners of war. Because the representatives of the native local people knew the surroundings well and the camp staff could exchange ideas and opinions with the local people in different matters.

The list

Table 1: The controller workers of the Janubiy Olamushuk labour camp being appointed to the new posts ^[4, 176]

№	Names	Date of birth	Nationality	Party	Position
1	Seshnikov Mikhail Ivanovich	1924	Russian	Com.Party	Medical inspector
2	Chuev Anatoliy Ivanovich	1924	Russian	Com.Party	Head of special section
3	Shlyapin Fedor Terentevich	1910	Russian	Com.Party	Head of Guards
4	Kalilin Viktor Nikolaevich	1921	Russian	Com.Party	Commandant
5	Petrov sergey Fedorovich	1902	Russian	Com.Party	Head of military club
6	Fayzulyanov	1917	Tatar	Com.Party	Commander of the division
7	Khaybulin Minyar Khakimyanovich	1922	Tatar	Com.Party	Controller
8	Teleshin Nikolay	1923	Russian	Com.Party	Commander of the division

The Japanese prisoners of war and the interned people, who were brought to Uzbekistan and died here, were buried in the following districts of Andijan region.

In Jalolkuduk district, Janubiy Olamushuk village 4 people were buried between 1945 and 1947. In Izboskan district, Chuama village 30 people were buried between 1945 and

1949. As for the graveyards where the Japanese prisoners of war and the interned were buried, in 1956, many graves of the Japanese were unknown, some of them had no gravestones on which their names were written, the graveyards were in bad refused condition ^[5]. In the years of independence such things were finished, because of the

concern of our state and the attempts of the devoted countrymen the graveyards have been flourished. Sirojiddinov Makhsomkhoji ota, who was born in 1922 and leading such works, defined the places where the graves of the Japanese prisoners of war and the interned people were situated in Jalolkuduk district, Janubiy Olamushuk village, showed his devotion in putting the gravestones to each of them and flourishing these places by the help of the government of Andijan region [6]. Nowadays his son Sirojiddinov Najmiddin is continuing his works.

As Otakhonova (Uvaysiddinova) Sharifakhon, who is living in Chuama village of Izboskan district, Andijan region, witnessed that her father-in-law Kamariddin khadji Uvaysiddinov remembered the camp of the prisoners of war in this village and the events happened around it in his childhood. "We were little children, at first German and Italian prisoners of war were brought here, they were tired and exhausted on the journey, and most of them seemed to be ill. We were afraid of the German, all the prisoners of war seemed to be the German for us. Later, another captives in different appearance and shorter, partially resembled to our people were brought here, later we knew that they were Japanese. Because all the men who were able to carry a gun in the village went to the war, there were no men left to dig the grave in the village, so that there was a time when the people died, the prisoners were taken out of the camp to dig the grave [7]."

On May 26, 2002 the former Japanese prisoners of war visited Andijan in order to visit their countrymen's gravesites and the delegation was met by a number of honorands of war and labour under the leadership of R.Tillaboev, they were shown the gravesites of their countrymen situated in Chuama village of Izboskan district and Janubiy Olamushuk village of Jalolkuduk district and

performed visitation and it made a warm impression on them [8].

In the camps of the Japanese prisoners of war together with Japanese prisoners and interned people, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Korean, Buryat prisoners and interned people were also kept. They were called "White refugees". Most of them were comprised of the Bolsheviks who left the Soviet state because of various reasons. These prisoners were imprisoned for their corporation with Japanese reconnaissance in Manzhou-Go until 1945 [9]. For example, in December of 1946 the servants of the counterintelligence State security service under the control of the general-mayor of the army Kolchakovskoy and Shulkevich Boris Ananevich brought Grodekovo who was born in 1885, Russian, the member of the Japanese military mission (Takumu kikan-army organization of secret service) to the 26th health camp on the train 97019 from Prymorsk region. These "White refugees" were used to know the secrets among the prisoners, get information, get to know who was in aggressive idea against the Soviet government among the prisoners and deliver secret information to the administrators about those who were agitating the prisoners against the Soviet government. There was a frequent exchange of the prisoners between the camps. We can find out such kind of situations in the following document too. The deputy of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Turkmanistan SSR, Colonel Menshikev sent Petrov, the general-lieutenant of GUPVI IIB SSSR the list of ill and weak Japanese soldiers sent from the military camp № 44 in Krasnovodsk city in Turkmanistan to the health camp № 26 on September 11, 1946.

Line of communication list of Japanese prisoners of war [10]

Table 2: Departure – Krasnovodsk, Camp№44, Destination – Andijan, Camp №26, September 8, 1946.

№	Names	Personal №	Age and place of birth	Military title
1	AKAMI Khidesuke	518	24, Khukuiken city	Mayor
2	ARAI Sakura	555	21, Nagano city	Junior Lieutenant
3	ARAKI Zdiroo	939	28, Tokasaki city	Captain
4	VABA Kadzukhiko	2101	22, Kumamoto city	Junior Lieutenant
5	VATANABE Takisi	782	28, Niigata province	Lieutenant
6	EBARA Kodzi	562	47, Okayataken city	Lieutenant Colonel
7	IVASAKI Seiti	788	30, Khyogo province	Junior Lieutenant
8	IVASAKI Masamitsu	1000	31, Saytama province	Captain
9	IDZAKI Sigoro	506	22, Fukuiken city	Junior Lieutenant
10	IKEDA Osamu	1485	23, Tokio city	Junior Lieutenant

Chief of GCPOW№ 44 MMA of SSSR Lieutenant Colonel (Saprikin) Senior Inspector of the Group Registration of the Camp№ 44 MMA of SSSR GV. Sergeant (SHUPKO)

To the 26th camp in Andijan, mainly, ill and tired Japanese prisoners were brought [10]. The exchange of the prisoners between the camps was frequently happened. On May 12, 1947 the train comprised of 225 Japanese prisoners of war who served in Quantun army departed from Andijan camp to the 387th camp in Fergana. There were many professional scouts (intelligence agents), senior officers, servants of intelligence service and gendarmerie among them" [11]. In this camp, besides the prisoners with higher positions, ordinary soldiers were kept too. In every camp there were worker prisoners able to work comprised of soldiers and rank officers. The Japanese prisoners of war were also used in agriculture and constructing works besides carrying out their punishment in the territories of our country. The prisoners of war at the 26th health camp worked to

repair inside the camp and in the lands belonging to the camp in the first years. From 1946 the prisoners of war began to work in different agricultural enterprises according to the labour contract between the enterprise and the camp. In this year 250 people were involved in fixing the river banks, 200 people were involved in restoring and cleaning the irrigation systems. Besides that the Japanese prisoners of war attended in building many buildings and accommodations too. They did these works under the control of convoy (escort) [12]. The Japanese prisoners of war worked in more comfortable weather conditions of Uzbekistan rather than northern and eastern cold regions of the former Union. Different buildings, streams, streets built by them have been still kept up to the present days.

Conclusions

Depending on the above-mentioned data the followings can be mentioned. The prisoners of war were the victims of the war and they had to live in the far countries in capture far from their countries, but as everything has its beginning and end, their life in capture finished in 1956. The last 1025 Japanese prisoners were sent to their country on December 23, 1956 from the Nakhodka port of Russia.

In 1949-1950 the camp was finished and the territory of the camp was given to the possession of the Blind society.

Nowadays the tourists from Japan and other countries visit Andijan region in order to visit the gravesites of their countrymen. In the graveyards of the Japanese prisoners of war who couldn't return to their countries and died here flourishing works are being carried out. In the roots of such works there lies a good feature such as tolerance and amity in the heart of our nation towards other nations.

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