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**The Issue of
Korean Human Rights
During and After the Pacific War**

The Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families
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March 1, 1993

B12-8

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The Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families

The establishment of a history of a nation is testimony to the character and integrity of that nation; it is an illumination of that country's conscience and a measure of its ability. The Pacific War influenced not only the histories of Korea and Japan, but also the history of the world. Yet we are left with a gaping hole in that history where the stories of millions of people forcibly mobilized have been forgotten.

Hundreds of thousands of Koreans lost their lives or are still listed as missing as part of the Japanese war effort. Many of those wounded in the war are without adequate medical treatment and are dying. Today, former military sex slaves, euphemistically called comfort women, are suffering physical and mental anguish because of the torments they endured. When confronted with this reality, the Japanese Government chooses to look the other way.

Japan, with meticulous planning, forcibly recruited women from Korea and other nations to create a historically unprecedented category of war amenities, "military comfort woman." These young, innocent women from the countryside were forced to be sex slaves as "gifts from the Emperor" for the barbaric and savage Japanese military. These comfort women were often mass murdered or abandoned at the end of the war in an effort by the Japanese Army to conceal their existence. Thousands of documents were destroyed as the Japanese Government has tried to erase this humanistic blemish from their own military record. Today, the Japanese Government refuses to return unpaid wages, bills, trusts and savings of these comfort women and 7.5 million other forced laborers.

Fifty years has passed without the war criminal of Japan being punished or being held accountable for its atrocities. Japan shows no shame, regret or sense of responsibility for the postwar care of its former colonial subjects, even those who died or were wounded for the Japanese Emperor.

We endeavor to expose the past and present criminal acts of Japan. We sincerely hope the suffering endured by the Korean people never occurs again. We want the nation of Japan to bear its responsibility for the damage done to many thousands of people in the name of its own imperialistic war effort.

Further, we are alarmed that Japan today stockpiles plutonium. We strongly oppose this action because plutonium can be used to destroy people and property. We urge the world to notice and take caution.

We are convinced that the people of the world will support our efforts to regain our national self-respect and spirit.

I would like to thank a group of Japanese attorneys, headed by Mr. Takaki Kenichi, and Hakkiri Kai, led by Usuki, Keiko, for assisting us in our efforts. We also sincerely thank our many Japanese friends.

Mrs. Soon Im Yang, Co-Representative
Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families
Seoul, Korea
November 1992

INTRODUCTION

The Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families

The Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families (APWVBF) is an organization in support of the millions of Korean men, women and their families who were victims of Japanese policies during the Pacific War. The APWVBF, with its 15 regional offices, 300 local offices and 20,000 members scattered throughout South Korea, is on the forefront of the international struggle to force the Japanese government to take responsibility and make just compensation for its past crimes against the Korean people.

Simple Beginnings

The organization was founded in 1973. Mrs. Soon Im Yang, a Korean housewife, joined APWVBF in 1973 and formed a local chapter. Mrs. Yang's father-in-law was taken as a forced laborer in Japan for two years, then conscripted as a naval laborer, eventually dying on a Pacific island during World War Two. Compounding this tragedy, Mrs. Yang watched her mother-in-law die of grief as she waited in vain for official confirmation of her husband's death. Stirred by the apparent indifference of the Japanese government and even South Korean officials towards her own family's suffering, Mrs. Yang began to research the needs of other families whose situation was similar.

She found that the financial status of many Korean families who had lost their major breadwinner to Japanese conscription continued to be desperate even decades after the war. Because of lost educational and employment opportunities, even the second generation lived in poverty. From reparation funds made available by the Japanese-Korean Treaty of 1965, the government of the Republic of Korea dealt out compensation that amounted to \$300 per family. Many families refused to accept this meager offering. Additionally, only 8,552 families were able to "qualify" for this small support, because of legal and bureaucratic obstacles blocking their paths. For example, victims had to travel in person to Seoul in order to register for aid during the brief period between May 1971, and March 1972. Often, upon arrival, their papers and other documentary evidence were found lacking, and they were sent back empty-handed and despairing of ever having their true plight recognized. Finding the situation untenable, Mrs. Yang joined forces with others with whom she had made contact during her researches.

Originally APWVBF was formed for the three purposes: to facilitate the return of Korean remains, to discover the whereabouts of the unaccounted for, and to ask the Korean Government to use Japanese war reparation money to set up a scholarship fund to aid the children of those lost or wounded in the war. Gradually, however,

its aims and purposes have widened. They now include:

1. Representing and protecting the rights of surviving Pacific War victims.
2. Uncovering the truth about the past and those still missing, and retrieving the remains of the dead.
3. Continuing to fight for adequate restitution and full accountability from the Japanese government and Japanese corporations guilty of using Korean conscripted labor.
4. Petitioning that Japan not be allowed to become a member of the United Nations Human Rights Commission nor a permanent member of the Security Council until it has apologized and made reparation for its crimes against the Asian community.

Recent Activities and Achievements

In the summer of 1991, members of the APWVBF joined thousands of Korean citizens and civic organizations in a month-long APWVBF-sponsored march from Pusan to Seoul, a distance of nearly three hundred miles. The march drew international attention to the plight of the forgotten Pacific war victims and pointed out Japan's continuing resistance to take responsibility for its war crimes.

On December 6, 1991, with the help of APWVBF, 41 conscripted Koreans and their families filed suit against the Tokyo Government. They included a group of "comfort women" who had decided courageously to end their years of silence and shame and speak out publicly about the crimes committed against them by the Japanese government and its military.

Japan's immediate response to the APWVBF's lawsuit was predictable. As the New York Times reported, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa "denied that the wartime Government had organized and run the brothels, in which thousands of women died, insisting that they were set up by entrepreneurs. Thus...Japan was in no position to pay compensation."¹

In January 1992, however, a history professor named Yoshiaki Yoshimi came forward with documents he had discovered in the archives of the Japan Self-Defense Agency, which confirmed the Japanese government's attempt to cover up its own involvement in the brothels at every level.

Stunned by the professor's public revelations, Prime Minister Miyazawa offered an apology to the Korean Government on January 17, 1992. He also promised to conduct a full-scale study. The study resulted in the release of over a hundred previously-suppressed documents concerning the Japanese involvement in the conscription and exploitation of Korean "comfort women."

Finally, on July 6, 1992, the Japanese Government officially reversed its

longstanding policy of denial. Admitting guilt in these wartime atrocities and offering future compensation to the victims of the brothels, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said, "I would like to express the sincere apology and remorse of the Government of Japan to all those, irrespective of nationality or place of origin, who underwent indescribable pain and suffering as comfort women."²

Goals

Many questions remain unresolved. Therefore the APWVBF continues to apply public pressure and to make these demands on behalf of our members and victims everywhere:

1. The Japanese government must formally admit its atrocities committed upon Korean men and women.
2. The Emperor of Japan must issue a formal apology to Korean victims and their families for the deeds of his government.
3. The Japanese government must provide a complete list of victims and their present status.
4. Full and fair restitution must be made to the families and survivors.
5. The remains of all victims must be promptly returned to their proper place.
6. Japan shall not be accepted into the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

If Japan does not honor nor exercise human rights within its own society; how can it be trusted to honor human rights in others?

Survivors' Stories

The APWVBF has made it a policy to contact as many Pacific survivors as possible, in order to publicize their plight and to gather testimony and other evidence to be used for litigation on their behalf.

The organization feels a sense of urgency because the trail of Japanese war atrocities is growing faint after more than fifty years. Fewer and fewer witnesses are available to come forward as time passes. The 600,000 Korean draftees who lost their lives in the war cannot provide testimony of their suffering. Many others who were separated from their families have changed their names or have since died of old age. Few "comfort women" have come forward to testify due to their feelings of shame and the social taboo attached by Korean society to their condition.

Documentary evidence of the Japanese conscription efforts has also been extremely difficult to obtain. Many documents were lost or destroyed during the course of World War Two. Moreover, the Japanese government has been reluctant to release existing documents regarding the men and women taken and their present whereabouts. More evidence, in the form of documents and testimony of

survivors, is surfacing, due in large part to the research efforts of organizations such as APWVBF, the international media, and conscientious Japanese civic groups.

Japanese and Korean Relations: A Historic Perspective

Japan began its expansionist policy during the Meiji Era in the beginning of the 19th century. After the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), the Japanese military forced the Korean Emperor to sign and accept the Protectorate Treaty of November 17, 1905, beginning a process of colonization that endeavored to destroy Korean economy and culture.

On October 8, 1895, the Japanese murdered and burned the body of the Korean Queen Myung Sung, wife of Emperor Ko Jong. This assassination was planned by the Japanese Interior Minister and Ambassador in Korea, and the responsible criminals were awarded with promotion within the Japanese government.³

With the Protectorate Treaty, Japan took complete diplomatic and domestic control. The official seal of the Korean Emperor was not affixed to the document, however, and the Emperor's signature was forged on many other documents of the period.⁴ In 1907, the Korean Emperor Ko Jong sent a secret mission to the Second Hague Conference to protest the Japanese colonization of Korea, but to no avail. Four years later, on August 22, 1911, Japan forced Emperor Ko Jong to accept the Treaty of Annexation which ceded sovereign power to the Japanese Emperor. With this stroke, the Japanese ended the five centuries-old Korean royal lineage. Despite massive popular opposition, Korea became a colony of Japan, her "imperial subject." With the power over the Korean people firmly in its hands, Japan then issued a decree instituting a separate registry for Koreans and Japanese that effectively made Koreans second-class citizens in their own land.

After the annexation, Japan set up a Governor-General in Seoul with absolute control over political, military and civil affairs. The military and civilian police were given "compulsory execution" and "summary action" powers covering 87 infractions of law.⁵ Korean people were deprived of freedom of speech, press and assembly. They were forbidden to speak their native tongue, or to address each other by their Korean names.

Partly due to the rice riots of 1918, Japan was experiencing its own domestic pressures. In order to alleviate its internal problems, Japan confiscated large tracts of farm lands from Korean peasants under the pretext of conducting "land and forest surveys."⁶ Within 9 years of annexation, Japan had taken 2.5 million acres of farm land and 28.9 million acres of forest, representing 86% of Korea's total forest lands.⁷ Later, Japan implemented a "plan for increasing rice production"⁸ in Korea in order to maintain the policy of low rice prices and low wages in Japan. Consequently, Korean farmers, who comprised 80% of the total population, faced starvation and

the loss of their farms; some became migrant workers or left Korea and went to Japan for employment.

In 1910, the Japanese Governor-General imposed a law requiring a government permit to operate a business in Korea. As a result, by the year 1920, the ratio of Korean-owned factories to Japanese-owned factories had declined from 1:1.5 to 1:15.5, causing terrible economic disruption and hardship for the Korean people.⁹

After the wave of economic depression that swept the world in 1929, Japan's military forces invaded and occupied Manchuria and Shanghai. In 1936, it withdrew from the United Nations, signed the Japan-German Defense Treaty and continued its incursions into China.

As the Sino-Japanese war dragged on and the frontline was extended, Japan began a compulsory mobilization of human resources from Korea. To help supply the immense manpower and materials necessary for the protracted and expanding war, the Japanese Government enacted a Law on Total National Mobilization in 1938 which stated in Article One that "In the times of war, the authorities shall control the employment of both human and material resources in order to deploy all material power in the most effective way for the national defense."¹⁰

Japan began to use Korea as a supply base for its Asian war effort, extensively plundering Korea's mineral and agricultural resources. Farm exports to Japan increased dramatically while farm production remained stagnant, putting Korean farmers, already suffering from the annexation of their land, in further economic depression and famine.¹¹

According to official Japanese documents, between 1906 and 1909, Japan killed 17,779 Koreans for resisting its colonial rule.¹² In the Uprising of March 1919 alone, Japanese soldiers and police killed 7,509 Koreans and imprisoned 46,458 others. In the five years from 1924 to 1929, 875,922 Koreans were imprisoned for resisting Japanese-imposed laws. The first Japanese Governor-General of Korea, Governor Terauchi stated "Koreans should obey Japanese rule or die."¹³ During the infamous Tokyo earthquake of 1923, nationalistic Japanese mobs killed 6,600 Koreans in an outrageous irrational rampage.

The legal subjugation of Korean citizens continued in October 1937 when Japan introduced the Pledge of Imperial Subjects. According to this dictum, all Koreans were ordered to recite "We, the imperial subjects shall serve the nation (Japan) loyally and faithfully..." Japanese authorities forced Koreans to raise the Japanese flag, bow to the Imperial Palace and worship at Shinto shrines.

In 1938 Japan abolished the teaching of the Korean language in public schools after the first grade. The following year, Japan forbade the use of Korean language in public schools altogether. To use the Korean language in public places, work places,

and in publications of any kind, including newspapers, became illegal as well. Japan also mandated that Koreans change their family names to Japanese-sounding ones, making even the use of their original Korean names illegal.

Between Japan's invasion of China in 1938 and its surrender to the Allied Forces on August 15, 1945, the Japanese government and its military forcibly drafted over 7.5 million Korean citizens to work as laborers in Japanese factories and mines, members of the so-called "Voluntary Military Services" and as compulsory infantrymen. Many were forced to serve as prisoner of war guards in various parts of Asia, and were later executed or imprisoned by the Allies for war crimes. In all, about one million did not live to return home.

Additionally, the Japanese government kidnapped 170,000 to 200,000 young Korean women to be employed against their will as prostitutes in military brothels.¹⁴ These so-called "comfort women" were called "gifts" from the Japanese Emperor to the military.¹⁵ Working under savage conditions and moving every few weeks, these unfortunate women were forced to serve from thirty to as many as a hundred Japanese soldiers per day.

After the war, those not slaughtered by the retreating Japanese were left to fend for themselves, far from home. Helpless and ashamed, many stayed in exile, fearing that social stigma would prevent their families from ever accepting them. Many who did return to Korea carried their terrible secret with them to their graves.

Even today, the Japanese government refuses to provide treatment for war disabilities to Korean survivors. Japan continues to revoke citizenship rights of Koreans residing in Japan who fought the war for the Japanese, and it refuses to pay military pensions or compensation for wartime labor.

Conscription of Korean Citizens - General Background

As the Japanese war zone expanded in the late 1930s, Japan suffered serious manpower shortages. To address this loss, the Japanese Government began to step up the conscription of Korean men for their own labor force.

Beginning in September 1938, the mobilization was initially conducted by "Voluntary Recruitment," a euphemistic term to describe the forced conscriptions.¹⁶ Japan assigned each township a quota. In order to meet these quotas, township officials and police usually worked together to draft a work force of unwilling Korean citizens. Korean laborers were then sent to Japan, Sakhalin (an island north of Japan presently under the control of the former Soviet Union) and many other parts of Asia to work in mines, factories and military encampments.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Japanese Government's need for more Korean laborers increased. The 1939 Civilian Mobilization Act legalized conscription of Korean citizens into the Japanese Army. After February, 1942, The Japanese authorities adopted a new recruiting guideline, the Recommendation by the Government Offices, which officially drafted Korean citizens into areas including, but not limited to, the military. By September 1944, the national draft ordinance was being applied in earnest. In sum, the Japanese Government forcibly conscripted over 7.5 million Korean men and women for its war effort.

Korean citizens were drafted by the Japanese for three main purposes: as soldiers, as laborers and as comfort women. Each will be discussed in turn.

Military Services

Japanese soldiers were trained to submit totally to the Emperor, to accept orders without question and to die if necessary. With such a tradition, the Japanese were initially reluctant to admit and arm Koreans for their military, because Koreans possessed their own culture and allegiance. Further, the Japanese military considered the possibility that Korean soldiers might join a rebellion or work as spies for the Allies. This concern intensified as the Pacific War turned unfavorably for the Japanese. Moved by the urgent need for human resources, however, Japan's rulers agreed to supplement their own resources with a Korean "Voluntary Army."

Koreans drafted into the military suffered because of the Japanese fear of treachery, however. As these fears grew, Japan increased its effort to eliminate Korea's sense of national identity. Discrimination and punishment against Koreans in military camps became severe.

Volunteer Army

The Ordinance of the Special Voluntary Army was proclaimed on April 3, 1938, as a test case for Koreans to serve in active duty. Initially the Japanese military targeted educated Korean youths from middle-class families, who were thought to have "solid ideas." Japan hoped to train wealthy Korean youths as imperial subjects and use them to destroy Korea's identity. When this test group refused to volunteer, Japan resorted to quotas and drafting.

In this group, the total number of Korean recruits was 17,664 in the Japanese Army and 22,295 in the Navy. Of these, 2,579 army and 3,112 navy men died.

Example 1: Bae, Jae Bong -- "volunteer soldier"

Mr. Bae was born on February 1, 1924 at Soo Bi Myun, Yung Yang Kook, Kyung Sang Nam Do. A teacher, he was forced to volunteer for military

service by local police on August 10, 1942. To avoid the draft, he fled to the Sam Chuk coal mines where he worked as a miner. He was arrested and forced to enlist for training on November 20, 1942; he completed the training on May 28, 1943. Bae was placed in the Japanese 30th Division in Seoul in June 1944, and then assigned to the Headquarters Company, 22nd Tiger Regiment on July 20. He left Seoul on July 25 for Da Dong, Burma by way of Singapore, Bangkok and Rangoon. On July 19, 1945 his unit sustained heavy casualties from the British while assaulting Mekuteri airfield. Bae helped a seriously wounded Japanese soldier and managed to escape while receiving a wound on his right hand during an air raid. He permanently lost the use of his right index finger.

Bae was physically beaten in camp by Japanese superiors on many occasions between 1944 and 1945 and still suffers from sciatic neuralgia, a condition which causes back pain. After Japan's surrender, Bae and his Japanese unit were taken prisoners by the British. Even in prison camp, Japanese soldiers treated Koreans cruelly. Bae returned to Korea in August 1946. After the war, he worked as a clerk; now he is on his deathbed after suffering a stroke.

Example 2: Kim, Pan Young -- "volunteer soldier"

"In the early part of 1940, the village police vice chief threatened my family if I did not enlist. After a short training period around December 1942, I was sent to the South Pacific Islands. I was wounded during an air raid and the Japanese military unit there was totally demolished. I wandered in the jungle and in September of 1945 I was captured and put into a POW camp in Thailand as a B.C. war criminal. I was returned to Korea in May 1946 after much suffering."

Student Volunteer Army

In 1943, Japan abolished the deferment of the draft for Japanese students. Promptly, Korean students in Japan became subjects for forced "voluntary" military service. The Korean Student Volunteer Army had two purposes: to balance the ratio of Japanese and Korean students drafted and to control dissent, since Korean students traditionally organized and led anti-Japanese protests.

On October 20, 1943, the Student Army Volunteer Ordinance decreed that physical examinations were to be given to all students, and that conscription would begin in January 1944. Although it was called the "Student Volunteer Army," of 2,830 possible Korean student "recruits," only 211 had actually volunteered.

The Japanese Government then stepped up its efforts at recruitment. On November 10, 1943, the Japanese Governor-General in Korea urged Korean students to volunteer for military service without exception. Some colleges staged fake

rallies to promote an atmosphere suitable for "volunteering." At the same time, the Japanese-controlled media carried out an intense advertising campaign. Further, Japanese authorities mandated that students who refused to "volunteer" would become forced laborers. Therefore, students were forced to make a choice: either join the military, work as a laborer or refuse both, jeopardizing their family's security. Eventually, by the end of November 1943 after being confronted with this choice, 2,134 out of 2,830 students volunteered. Of the total of 4,385 students drafted by the Japanese military, 640 were dead by the war's end.¹⁷

Example 1: Chung, Ki Young -- "Student volunteer"

Mr. Chung was born on January 21, 1920 in a landowner's household, Chin Choo, Kyung Sang Nam Do. After graduating from high school, he entered Tokyo Imperial University where he studied Korean history. Because he was Korean and was studying Korean history, Chung was suspected of "plotting the Korean Independent Movement" and was arrested by the police and interrogated. In 1943, as a junior engaged in his graduate thesis in Seoul, Chung was forced to "volunteer." By that time, deferment of the draft had been abolished for liberal arts students. The police summoned his mother and brother several times for questioning and threatened his family to induce him to volunteer for the military. Chung finally yielded to pressure and signed up on January 20, 1944, one day after the deadline.

After preliminary military training, Chung was placed in the 80th Army Regiment on January 20, 1944 in Tae Gu, Korea. On January 28, 1944 he was transferred to the 5th Company, 46th Infantry Battalion, 60th Division in So Chu, China, where he received further training for 6 months. During this training period, he received daily physical abuse in the barracks. He refused to wash the underwear of his superiors and did not touch leftover food. He witnessed the killing of prisoners by instructors during the training on three occasions. While Chung was receiving officers' training beginning in August 1944, he witnessed mass killings of Chinese civilian prisoners who were bound with steel wire and dumped into the lake in baskets.

Chung returned to his original unit in December 1944 and from January 11, 1945 to June 30, 1945, received officers' training at Nanjing Officers School. On June 30, 1945, he was assigned platoon commander to the Fourth Company, 608th Battalion. In the meantime, he had made contact with the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai and defected on September 1, 1945. In Shanghai, he taught Korean culture to those Korean draftees discharged from the Japanese Army. He also rescued more than 200 Korean comfort women. Chung returned to Korea with 1,500 people, including the comfort women. He worked for the Historic Committee as the Chairperson of the Board at Kuk Min University and Hae In University. Currently,

Chung is actively engaged in a project to reclaim the remains of Koreans who died in the Pacific War. To date, 1,188 remains have been returned.

Example 2: Chung, Sook Cho -- wife of a "student volunteer"

Chung's husband, Hahn, Song Soo was born on August 18, 1920 at Shinuju, Pyung Buk, in a house of a landowner. He entered Senshu University in Tokyo in April 1939 and married in March 1940. He was inducted by the Japanese Military Special Force in January of 1944. He was assigned to the 7991 Transportation Unit in Suchu, China on February 26, 1944. In March of that same year, Hahn escaped and joined the Third unit of the Korean Independence Army. After further training at a Chinese military school, he was engaged in underground work in Shanghai where anti-Japanese activities were most active. After his escape, his family was interrogated, his house searched and his family was kept under close scrutiny. He sent letters home under the name Han, Sung Young. On March 13, 1945, he was arrested by Japanese police in Shanghai. After being tortured, he was sentenced to death by a military court and executed on May 13, 1945. At his court hearing, he refused to answer in Japanese and through an interpreter, he forewarned the impending defeat of Japan. He stated, "I will serve my country with my life just as you do for yours."

After the war ended, his family escaped from North Korea and Chung, Sook Cho moved to the United States. The box containing Mr. Hahn's remains was kept in storage at the Japanese Welfare Ministry. On November 20, 1971, the box was brought to Korea by his friend, Chung, Ki Young; it contained the hero's hair and a piece of fingernail.

Draft

The drafting of Koreans from the general population began in earnest on May 8, 1942. The first physical examination of draftees occurred between April 1 and August 20, 1944, and included 206,057 men.¹⁸ According to the Japanese Congressional Record, 184,000 youths were drafted from September 1, 1944, to April 1945, and sent to various locations throughout Asia.¹⁹ The second draft examination was held from January to May 1945. The training of draftees was drastically curtailed from the six to twelve-month training period of the "voluntary army" due to the urgent need for soldiers. Total draftees numbered 438,185; of these, the dead numbered 32,455.²⁰

Example 1: Chung, Kee Ha (petitioning for family)

Chung's father, Chung, Rae Bong, enlisted in the Japanese Army at the urge and threat of village police "because there were too many children," so a few could be spared for the Emperor. In May 1942, he was trained and came home

for a few weeks. The military police took him again and he was sent to the South Pacific Islands where, we believe, he died in April 1945. The Japanese Government never notified his family.

Example 2: Park, Chil Bong -- "Draftee"

Mr. Park was born on July 12, 1924, the first son of a small farmer in Ko Hung Myun, Chula Nam Do. After finishing grammar school, he worked for an electric company. His father, Park Hak Soon, was drafted for forced labor in 1939 and was sent to a mine in Hokkaido, Japan. Because of the inhumane conditions and hard labor, his father developed a gastrointestinal disorder and was sent home in 1941. Later, a recruitment officer in his hometown tried to draft him again. Park Chil Bong went to the police and proposed to take his father's place. Park was recruited as a laborer in a cavalry reserve, the Kwan Dong Army, along with 63 youths from neighboring counties. He was told by Sergeant Osekawa that his term was three years and his job would be to train horses for war use. In February 1944, he fell from a horse while transporting artillery and sustained an injury to his right leg, requiring 15 days in the army hospital. He was due to return home because his three year commitment was complete.

In September 1944, Japan drafted Park again for the Third Rifle Company, 3rd Battalion, 3909 Regiment, Kwan Dong Army. Following six months of training, Park was sent to the southern front. By March 25, 1945, his regiment had crossed Korea from Manchuria and was listed with the Taiwan Defense Headquarters. His company was to construct defensive positions against the Allies and guerilla warfare.

Near the end of the war in July 1945, the entire company contracted malaria, requiring hospitalization. Park returned to Korea in March 1946, only to be hit with malaria again and a fever lasting more than a month. The illness has left Park physically disabled, without the use of his left arm. Park was married in 1953 and is dependent on his wife's income.

Forced Laborers

Conscripted Korean labor forces were predominantly farmers and Koreans who resided in Japan. These forced laborers worked under slave-like conditions to construct airfields, harbors, mines, roads, and civilian enterprises. The names of these Japanese companies are familiar to us today: Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Sumitomo, Suzuki, Sanyo. Korean laborers were sometimes forced to the frontline of the war as human shields for the Japanese military.²¹ Many teenage girls were forcibly taken as laborers under the auspices of the Women's Labor Forces. According to the Japanese Congressional Record, 155,567 Koreans were taken by the Japanese Army and Navy and 22,712 died as laborers.²² According to statistics compiled by the Japanese

Department of Public Office in 1953, 70,424 Koreans had been taken by the Army and 84,483 by the Navy, by the year 1941. The number of forced laborers increased after 1944.²³ Another report by the Japanese Treasury Ministry in 1947 stated that the total number of Koreans conscripted for labor in Korea was 6,126,180 and for labor in Japan and overseas as 1,343,814. The total number of deaths among these laborers was estimated to be 300,000. The actual figure is most likely higher because many documents have been destroyed. An exact number of conscripted laborers and those who died as laborers is, at this time, impossible to ascertain.

One of the most tragic and revealing incidents was shown on the television program, "Today's Window," aired in the city of Taegu, Korea, on MBC TV on April 2, 1991. It portrayed the death of an eight-year-old laborer named Park Il Yang, who died while working at a naval airfield construction site from exhaustion and pneumonia. The boy's father, Dae Bong, was also conscripted to Akairo coal mine in 1939, but survived.²⁴

Example 1: Park, Chang Won -- "Laborer"

Mr. Park was 18 years old when he was taken by the Japanese military police in March 1942. He was sent to Mirae Island in the South Pacific to join 120 other Korean laborers. From February 23-27, 1945, the Japanese fed the Korean laborers "whale meat," which the Koreans later discovered was actually meat from their missing companions whose remains they found in a ravine. Park and the others decided that they, too, were destined to become "whale meat" and decided to escape. Their plan was discovered when a Korean traitor told authorities. The systematic killing of Koreans in the camp began. Park escaped with twenty other Korean laborers, but all of the others, in addition to many natives, were killed by the Japanese. Park's report was confirmed by other escapees. Mrs. Yang, Co-Representative of APWVBF, continued at the hearing, "...the reality was that American Navy vessels were ready to land but were hesitating, for the Americans knew that Koreans on the island would be killed by the Japanese" (see Appendix B, pp. 39-41).

Example 2: Kim Young Koo (See Appendix B, pp. 42-3).

Prisoner of War Guards

In 1942, Japan placed approximately 3,223 Koreans to guard Allied prisoners of war in Thailand, Burma, Java, Singapore and the Philippines.²⁵ The Korean guards were forced to implement the policies of Japanese military personnel, including maltreating POW's and committing human rights atrocities. Some Korean guards were prosecuted and 23 were executed after the war by Allied military war crimes courts, while most of the Japanese superiors who ordered the atrocities remained untouched.

Example 1: Park, Byung Chen -- "POW Guard"

Born on November 27, 1923 on a family farm in Chu Duk Myun, Chung Chun Book Do, Mr. Park quit high school and worked at a family-owned grain mill. In November 1941, town officials coerced Park into working in the mines. Following repeated refusals, he was given a choice: the mines or the military. He finally yielded and became a military laborer. On June 30, 1942, he, along with 30 others, was taken to serve as prisoner of war guards.

Park received military training for two months, together with 3,000 other recruits. In the middle of August 1942, Park and approximately 1000 others left Pusan, in the south of Korea, to travel through Taiwan and Singapore, to reach Djakarta, Indonesia. He was assigned to the 16th Army Java POW camp, then to the Bandung First Sub Camp and served as a guard under Japanese military command.

In 1943, a company commander, five noncommissioned officers and 80 Korean guards including Park, were sent to Flores Island to supervise forced labor by POWs to build an airfield. The prisoners labored exposed to the sun while starving and sick with illness. The job of supervision and discipline was carried out by Korean guards under the orders of Japanese military officials. In 1944, Park and others returned to Java and found that the numbers of POW's had diminished drastically and those who remained were near death.

Park was transferred to Sunaan to guard British, Dutch and American civilian internees. There, 8700 civilians, including women and children, were detained while suffering from severe shortages of food and medicine.

Park was told that his tour of duty was to be two years. But the Japanese military showed no intention of keeping to their contract. Moreover, Japanese staff officer Lieutenant Colonel Matsumoto threatened in a speech, "I could kill your parents with a single postcard."

After the war, Park and others became POW's of the Allied Forces. Koreans were segregated from the Japanese soldiers for some time. Park was finally released and put on board a ship to return home. When the ship stopped at Celebes Island, Park was again arrested and interrogated. During the interrogation, a Dutch officer angry at Park, whom he accused of lying about the abuse of POWs, blinded Park's right eye with a ruler. In November 1949, Park was ordered back to Java where he was sentenced to two years of labor. Three other Korean guards were sentenced to death. Park was released from prison in February 1950 and returned to Korea on March 20, 1950, only to face the Korean War which began in June 1950. At present, Park is engaged in small farming.

Comfort Women

Beginning in 1937, the Japanese Government embarked on a new mission to invigorate its war effort. In August 1937, after the Sino-Japanese War had expanded, the Japanese Cabinet enacted an act euphemistically called the Outlines of All-Out National Mobilization. This law paved the way for the involvement of women in the national war effort. Then in November, 1941, the National Labor Act required women to work in the national war effort for 30 days out of each year. By June 1943, the number of days had increased to 60, and by 1944, the age limit rose from 25 to 40. Finally, the Japanese draft law was revised in 1943, decreeing that women could be conscripted for labor. These legal statutes paved the way for the conscription of women for sexual service to the Japanese military.

As a matter of national policy and as a "gift from the Emperor," Japan began to draft so-called "comfort women" to sexually service the men of the Japanese military. Initially, these women were Japanese professional prostitutes. But fearing the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases--especially syphilis--from prostitutes to Japanese military personnel, and from there eventually to the general population as soldiers returned home, the Japanese Government opted to utilize Korean girls and women, who were considered disease-free (because of deeply held Confucian beliefs in Korea, the chastity of young Korean women was assured). Additionally, the Japanese government discovered a shortage of available Japanese prostitutes. Finally, it was felt that conscripting Korean girls to be used as sex slaves was less dispiriting to the national morale than drafting Japanese women for the same chore.

In all, 170,000 to 200,000 Korean girls and women were taken from farms and small villages.²⁶ They were threatened, beaten or sometimes misinformed that they would be taken to work in factories. These young Korean women were taken far from their homes, to Thailand, Indonesia, the Mariana Islands and to other locales within the Pacific war theater.

Japanese atrocities committed against people in occupied territories were extreme and are well documented. Japanese soldiers massacred, raped and abducted civilians, creating more "comfort women" as they went along. In January 1932, Japan invaded Shanghai. Japanese Germ Warfare units in Manchuria carried out experiments on living Chinese, Korean and Russian people. The Nanjing Massacre (then capital of China) claimed 300,000 lives and 20,000 women were raped in the week of December 13, 1937.²⁷ The leader of this offensive, General Okamura stated, "There were no comfort women available from our past military actions. I have created our own comfort women, I am ashamed to say."²⁸ In June 1936, the Chief of Staff of the Northern China Army, General Okabe, sent a memo home, requesting that the assignment of comfort women to combat staff become a priority in order to prevent anti-Japanese sentiment arising from the possible rape of civilians.

The Japanese military command allocated the number of women each unit was allowed. After it had collected young women between the ages of 13 and 35 by coercion, threats, kidnapping and falsehood, transportation was arranged to the specific bases. With all phases of this program, the Governor-General of Korea cooperated in full.

One document detailing these arrangements was written by Navy Lt. Commander Shigemura, in 1942. He gave detailed instructions to the Southwestern Navy Chiefs of Staff from Naval Headquarters regarding ships needed to transport and distribute Korean "comfort women." Arrangements were made for sleeping, food and sanitation.²⁹

Seiji Yoshida (this is his pen name), a former mobilization chief in Shimonoseki for the Repayment to the Nation by Labor (a national labor recruitment bureau), relates in his book on the subject that he received an order in May 1943, from the Japanese Western Military Headquarters for 2,000 comfort women from Kyushu and Yamaguchiken, and 200 Korean comfort women. Upon receiving this memo, Yoshida and ten members of his unit boarded a passenger ship bound for Cheju Island, Korea. There, the men rented two trucks and proceeded to civilian houses where they forcibly rounded up 200 young Korean women. Often, he "grabbed screaming infants from the women's arms, before forcing the women into trucks and sending them to the front lines in China to serve in brothels for Japan's invasion force."³⁰

The Japanese military installed sex stations within their own compounds. Tickets were issued to the soldiers and officers; usually tickets for Japanese women cost more than for Korean women. Strict rules were enforced regarding the particular ranks allowed, the time allotted for each soldier, and so on. Each woman was typically forced to service 20 to 30 soldiers per day, but later that number increased to 100 soldiers per day. Medical examinations were given to the women by Japanese physicians on a periodic basis.

Yoshida was again enlisted to recruit comfort women in April 1944, according to his account. Through the Japanese Army, the Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture ordered the mobilization of 100 Korean comfort women. Yoshida eagerly obliged and accordingly gathered up a group of Korean women, who were under the impression that they were being recruited to be Army hospital workers.

A typical mobilization order for "comfort women" read thusly:

Dated April 3, 1944
From the Governor, Yamaguchi Prefecture
To: Chief of Labor Mobilization in Shimonoseki

*Korean comfort women, 100

- *Age 18-35 (married acceptable, but no pregnant women)
- *In good health, require physician's certificate of physical exam, including check for venereal disease
- *Duration one year, to be renewed at volunteer's request
- *Stipend 30 yen monthly, 20 yen as initial payment. Lodging, food and clothing provided
- *Date of departure: 1 pm, April 10, 1944
- *Place of assembly, in front of the Customs Office, Shimoniseki
- *Transportation following the direction of the Army Unit

Every phase of the distribution of "comfort women" and the management and maintenance of the "comfort stations" (brothels) was supervised by the Japanese military. The military comfort stations were used exclusively by military personnel and medical examinations of the women were done only by military physicians on a regular schedule. Condoms (called "Charge #1") were issued for prevention of disease, and state regulations regarding the use of comfort women were posted in full view in front of all of the sex stations. Military personnel provided food, clothing, medical supplies and even citations to the women for their "good works."

A former Army surgeon, Dr. Asaumi, was stationed at the surgical section of the 14th Hospital in Shanghai, in January 1938. He testified that he was ordered to perform physical exams on 100 women who were to provide "comfort" to the Japanese Army. His "Active Prevention of Venereal Disease" memo of June 26, 1939 states:

While I was working outside of Shanghai in January of last year, I was ordered to perform examinations on prostitutes heading to inner China, of whom 80 were Korean and 20 Japanese. The incidence of venereal disease among the Korean women was minimal, but the majority of the Japanese were actively infected and were over age 20, some near 40, and had several years' experience as professional prostitutes. In contrast, the Korean women were much younger and inexperienced. These younger women are more desirable. I have seen surgical scars in the genital areas of the Japanese women indicative of prior venereal disease and have wondered if they should be sent as the "Emperor's gift to the military."³¹

Mr. Asaumi photographed a comfort station and from his picture, we may read the following posted signs (see Appendix B, p. 51):

- *Admission only for Army personnel and employees (no laborers).
- *Pass required.
- *Pay fee at front for ticket and condom
- *Fee: Uncommissioned officers, soldiers, employees-- 2 yen
- *Ticket effective only on the date of purchase
- *Once with ticket, proceed to designated room.

- *30 minute time limit
- *Upon completion, vacate room
- *Give ticket to woman upon entering room
- *Failure to observe these regulations will result in dismissal
- *Refusal to use condom is prohibited.³²

A directive sent from the Japanese Army Education Department stated that active prevention of venereal disease was essential to the establishment of sound sanitary conditions at the comfort stations. It prohibited the utilization of prostitutes outside of the military sex stations.³³

After the war ended, Japan left these Korean comfort women with little help. Often, they were not even told the war had ended. The military massacred some of the women as the army retreated, while other women committed suicide or became prostitutes. Many returned to Korea in secrecy, fearful of the tremendous public shame and strong societal taboo attached to their loss of virginity and forced promiscuity. Today, the few comfort women that have shared their story are old and dying.

Example 1: Comfort Woman -- Mrs. Lee, age 65. Testimony given at December 6, 1991 hearing.

"I was ten years old. One day, Korean and Japanese police came and told me my father needed me for errands. They took me to a village inn. There were three other Korean girls at the inn. After three months of captivity, they shipped us to Shimonoseki, Japan. There were about 30 on the ship. When we arrived in Japan there were 40-50 other young girls. After about two weeks of Japanese language training, we were sent to Taiwan, a town called Showka.

"I was not 15, so not eligible for that 'base job' [of working at a sex station] so the Japanese put me to do most of the cleaning. Girls were sitting on chairs outdoors to be picked up by soldiers. If you got picked, you got rice. Later I ran away. Then the police chief there took me in as a maid. I took care of his three girls and two boys for five years. As war broke out, he returned to Japan with his family and I was passed over to the military as a comfort woman. There were about 40 girls. During the day we cut grass to make smoke to camouflage the base from airplane attack. At night, we worked at such 'base work.'

"There were other Korean men as young as 19 years old taken as 'dokudai' [kamikaze]. The Japanese military put Korean youths in front. After awhile, the Japanese kamikaze would return alone. There were other Korean men transporting ammunition on their backs.

"On Saturdays, 'Daijo' would issue tickets. Each of us had to receive 20-30 soldiers. If only 10, there would be no rice. Work lasted from 9 am to midnight.

"We were given #606 injection [an early antisyphilitic] twice a month because of 'baidoki' (syphilis). The Japanese told us that it stops pregnancy. What happens if you catch syphilis? There would be no rice. If you shared your rice with a sick woman, both would be beaten. If you die, they throw your body in a ravine."³⁴

POST-WAR SITUATION

Japan has reneged on its fundamental post-war responsibility regarding victims in former colonies and occupied Asia. The issues of compensation, the return of remains and the release of documentary evidence should have been dealt with immediately after the war. Now, 47 years after the end of the War, these issues are still ignored. Prompt settlement is essential, considering the advancing age of victims.

Hakkiri Associates³⁵ conducted eight independent investigations interviewing 200 people to ascertain Japanese lassitude regarding compensation. They found that Korean victims were intentionally ignored and criminally abandoned. Further, the post-war Japanese Government concealed important documents. This apparent lack of effort on the part of the Japanese has become a source of contention between Japan and Korea.

Korea-Japan Relations and APWVBF

The end of World War Two left Korea in shambles. There was no working government in place and millions were homeless refugees. Basic supplies were impossible to find. Five years after the end of World War Two, Korea was again devastated by the Korean War. It was in the midst of this war that Korea and Japan first tried to negotiate compensation in October 1951. Between 1951 and 1965, Korea and Japan negotiated on five occasions, predominantly over the issue of Japanese compensation for its property in Korea.

A political settlement was reached in 1965 whereby \$300 million was given to Korea as compensation for the damages perpetrated by Japan. The amount of compensation was determined to be partial payment for Korea's material loss by Japan's colonial policy. As stated in the Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Japan on Properties, Compensation and Economic Cooperation, a non-obligatory capital of \$300 million was based on the debt owed by the Japanese against the Korean people as of August 15, 1945. An obligatory fund (i.e. to be paid back to Japan) of \$200 million (with 3.5% interest over 20 years) was designated to promote

the mutual interest of both parties upon the occasion of the normalization of their relationship. This was regarded as the final solution, the end to the post-war situation. Because of this settlement, Japan refuses to further discuss the issue of compensation.

The Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families organization posits that the above agreement does not offer a just solution to the dilemma of survivors and their families. These families and survivors were never truly represented in the above agreement between the two governments. Rather, it was a politically expedient deal between the Japanese and Korean governments.

The 1965 agreement failed to ensure that the Japanese Government investigate the actual conditions of conscripted Koreans. The Treaty also neglected to specify that Japan offer information regarding unaccounted for and missing to families, and that Japan find Korean remains and return them to their homelands and families.³⁶ Japan has neglected to return remains and provide records of lost Koreans. Japan has disregarded the enormous negative impact of its war effort on Korea and the huge number of Koreans disabled, disappeared and killed. Further, Japan has failed to formally apologize to Korea or pay its owed compensation. Monetary compensation is only partial payment for the damages done from colonial rule; the human loss cannot be counted in such terms. The 1965 agreement stated that economic aid be used only for the economic development of Korea, not for individual compensation. Clearly, victims of Japanese oppression and their families were not considered in this agreement.

A summary of APWVBF's demands regarding compensation are as follows:

1. Return of the gold and silver taken out of the Bank of Korea.
2. Return of treasurer's notes owed by the Japanese Government.
3. Return of money orders to Korea.
4. Return of capital and properties in Japan of enterprises based in Korea.
5. Return of Japanese treasurer's notes, bonds owned by Koreans and unpaid compensation of conscripted people.
6. Affirmation of the rights of Korean individuals to pursue action against the Japanese Government.
7. Request payment of above mentioned capital and wages.
8. Provide dates of initiation and termination of payments.

Koreans Unaccounted For

The Japanese Welfare Department reported in December 1991 that deaths among Korean military and civilian laborers numbered 22,182 out of a total of 242,341 Korean dead. APWVBF estimates that nearly 600,000 Koreans died from exhaustion, starvation, combat or massacre. Japan vigorously researched and investigated the plight of its own missing in action. For those Koreans missing, it did little.

According to one eyewitness report, at Kushiroshi Mine (Pacific Mine Company), when laborers became unable to work due to starvation, illness or injury, they were buried alive. One laborer who worked at Kenebetsu Airfield witnessed many burials and cremations without certificates of death. Among his 120 co-workers, more than half died. More than 30 corpses were used as cushions in the construction of an runway.

During the war, some families were notified of the deaths of their loved ones through local offices but the exact locations of the deaths were not disclosed. Some families learned of the deaths of their loved ones through those who returned from the war. The remains of Korean victims were never returned.

At present, the APWVBF is investigating the possible survival of former conscripted military, forced laborers and comfort women. The number of missing persons is estimated to be several hundred thousand. Many Koreans were simply abandoned at various war zones. Japan has failed to actively contact families of the missing. Until 1990, the families of those who never returned had no way to contact the proper Japanese authorities to request information. A few efforts to obtain information through the Welfare Department's office or through the Japanese Department of Labor yielded no response.

In January 1971, the Korean Government requested lists of Koreans who died while conscripted by the Japanese. In September of that year, the Korean Government received the list of 21,919 dead, but this information was not sent on to the families of the victims. This list became the basis for repayment of 30,000 won (approx. \$300) for each family. Only 8552 individuals took the meager \$300. For military laborers, no repayment was made.

In December 1989, a former student conscriptee, Chung Ki Yung, found lists of Koreans who were forced to serve in the military and as laborers in the basement of the Department of Public Health. At first, the Japanese Government denied the presence of the list. Then, Japan admitted to a list of 50,000 (the actual list contains 242,000 records as confirmed by the Department of Welfare) after a report by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper. Mrs. Yang of APWVBF requested that the records be made public on April 20, 1990. Japan refused to do so on the basis of protecting its privacy. Yang requested confirmation of possible survivals to the Japanese Department of Public Health, which again refused, asking for individual requests rather than a civilian organizational request. As of September 1992, 645 requests had been made, and 8 cases had been confirmed.

Unpaid Wages, Pensions and Savings

The following are two examples of documents recently unearthed which demonstrate the vast sums of money owed to conscripted Korean workers and military personnel by Japanese civilian corporations and the Japanese government.

In December 1990, a document was found in the public library in Tokyo that clearly outlines one example of compensation to Korean laborers. What follows is a translation of this document found in the Asahi Shimbun of the Kamaishi Steel Company:

"Explanation of Unpaid Funds for the Korean Laborers" Kamaishi Steel, Japan Steel Company, December 1, 1946

Causes of death:

1. Due to the war, on 7-14-45 and 8-9-45, those faced death while working and those who died outside of the factory by Allied naval bombing.
2. Due to wounds suffered while working
3. Due to illness

Types of unpaid wages:

1. Benefits for families: according to company regulation, a lump sum is to be paid to families.
2. Comfort fund, combined funds of internal regulations of the company on occasion of death, funeral ceremony costs
3. Life and casualty insurance provided for laborers
4. Retirement fund
5. Awards
6. Extension award fund
7. Retirement Pension Fund, originally called postal savings
8. Funds for support of forced laborers. The company is obligated to provide funds to the Labor Support Association which in turn helps families.
9. Savings accounts
10. Burial funds and health insurance
11. Third party comfort fund, donated by President of company, Minister of Welfare.
12. Cash in custody

Reasons for termination:

1. Escape
2. Return upon fulfillment of contract
3. Return to Korea due to illness
4. Return by circumstances
5. By draft to military service
6. Return after the war

Unpaid Funds (yen)	for deceased	others	total
1. Family funds	7,608.75		7,608.75
2. Comfort fund	16,350.00		16,350.00
3. Retirement fund	2,209.76		2,209.76
4. Awards	3,949.55	5,095.6	9,045.15
5. Extension Awards	2,530.82		2,530.82
6. Support fund	433.28	1,785.91	2,219.19
7. Savings	3,022.51	17,088.60	20,111.11
TOTAL	36,104.67	23,970.11	60,074.78

Insurance, Unpaid	for deceased	others	total
1. Life insurance	37,500.00		37,500.00
2. Pension	120.97	1,205.21	1326.18
3. Savings Accounts	663.59	14,650.41	15,314.00
4. Burial fees, Health Ins	2,440.00		2,440.00
5. Third Party Donations	1,293.20		1,293.20
6. Cash in Custody	336.26		336.26
7. War Casualty Insurance		1,751.03	1,751.03
TOTAL	42,354.02	17,606.65	59,960.67

GRAND TOTAL: 120,035.45 yen

Detail of Unpaid Funds on Dead Korean Laborers, Kamaishi Steel, Japan Steel Co. (excerpt)

1. Asuda, Tai Kim, address Kyung Sang Buk Do, Dalsung Koon, Walbae Myun, Do Won Ri, employed 2-26-43, terminated 9-14-45, war death, owed 3,419.24 yen.
2. Yamakawa, Eikon, address Chung Chung Nam Do, Bo Ryung Koon, Chu Po Ri, Ma Kang Ri, employed 1-15-44, terminated 7-14-45, war death, owed 2,511.15 yen.
3. Kamayama, Ken Kyoku, address Chung Chang Nam Do, Pu Ko Koon, Ok San Myun, Sang Ki Ri, employed 1-15-44, terminated 7-14-45, war death, owed 2,689.10 yen.
4. Eun, Kim Kun, address Kyung Buk, Dal San Koon, Wal Bae Myun, Owe Sung Ri, employed 2-26-43, terminated 7-14-45, war death, owed 3,581.68 yen.
5. Haritake, employed 2-26-42, terminated 7-14-45, war death, owed 3,387.12 yen.

These are the records of only one Japanese company. Many others were involved in similar labor practices, resulting in millions of yen owed to Korean survivors and their families. Shiga Ken in Kyushu alone had 20,000 savings accounts of Korean conscriptees totalling 850,000 yen. Considering this postal savings center was only

one of twenty-eight at the time, it is easy to conceive of the enormity of the total amount owed. For example, plaintiff #31 in APWVBF's current suit, Suk Jong Bok, received 90 yen initially, then 189 yen thereafter. Since November 1944, he was forced to save 150 yen monthly with no repayment to date. Plaintiff #29, Sung, Hung Sik, was forced to put 50 yen into savings from a monthly wage of 60 yen. This money has never been returned. A former comfort woman, Moon, Ok Ju reports that her savings, including interest, has reached 40,000 yen.

Other Post-War Issues

Over 700,000 first and second generation Koreans who were drafted to Japan during the war remain in Japan today. The 1952 San Francisco Peace Treaty dissolved the Japanese citizenship of these Koreans. While they live in and pay taxes to the Japanese Government, Korean residents are deprived of governmental benefits. They face discrimination in housing, hiring practices and education. One Korean man living in Osaka fought on the Japanese side of the war in Manchuria and receives no benefits from the Japanese Government. Currently, the Japanese Lawyers Association for Human Rights is investigating his and similar cases.

Regarding the classification of Korean war criminals, the Japanese military forced 3,111 drafted Koreans to guard prisoners of war. These guards, often under duress, carried out orders from Japanese military officers and as a result, 23 Koreans were executed as war criminals. Additionally, 148 Koreans were classified as B.C. war criminals and sent to Sukano prison. Koreans forcibly conscripted for the Japanese military lost their lives as Japanese war criminals. Yet the Japanese Government took away Koreans' Japanese citizenship with the Treaty of San Francisco. The last Korean war prisoner was released from a Japanese prison in 1957, at which point he became a status-less person in Japan. He fought for the Emperor, served in prison for him, and now is denied military and civilian benefits.

Comfort Women

The most dishonorable and abject human tragedy of the Pacific War concerns the comfort women. These young women's lives were shattered and society shuns them. Few survivors are willing to come forward today due to the intense shame that stems from having one's chastity violated. Many former comfort women are destitute, living alone in shame. Many do not want to own their pasts. The Japanese Government must claim responsibility for its dishonesty and its failure to accept responsibility for this tragic chapter in war history.

Recent Activity

APWVBF and Hakkiri Associates have recently brought a suit to the a civil court in Tokyo, the "Case of Reparation for Korean Victims in the Asian Pacific War." The trial began in December 1991 and is still in progress. There are 41 plaintiffs: former

Japanese Army conscriptees, military personnel, comfort women and families of victims. The plaintiffs demand restitution of 2 million yen (approx. \$200,000) each, totalling 8,200,000 yen.

Koreans Abandoned in the Soviet Union

The island of Sakhalin, just north of Hokkaido, Japan, became a Soviet territory at the end of World War Two. The Japanese call this island Karahuto and they used to control the southern half of the island. Japan forcibly conscripted 150,000 Korean laborers to Sakhalin to be engaged in military industry, mostly the construction of airfields and roads.

At the end of the War, 300,000 Japanese were released from Sakhalin and sent back to Japan as part of an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. Many Koreans were left on Sakhalin island because of their non-Japanese status. According to a Soviet census of 1946, 43,000 Koreans were still on Sakhalin, and about 20,000 Koreans had moved to other areas of the Soviet Union.

This problem of Koreans left on Sakhalin was left unsettled in the Korean-Japanese Treaty of 1965. To fill this void, the Association of Separated Families in the Soviet Union was founded in 1970 to ascertain survivorship and to establish communication and visitation with families in the Soviet Union.

LIST OF DEMANDS

The Association of Separated Families in the Soviet Union, Dr. Lee, Du Hun, President

The Association demands that the Japanese honor their post-war commitment to these Koreans who were forcibly conscripted; the Japanese have an obligation to repatriate those who want to come home. The Association brought suit on August 29, 1990 for 21 plaintiffs demanding retribution.

It is estimated that 90% of those original conscriptees are now dead, and that most of the remaining families desire to return home, provided they may have a means of sustaining themselves in Korea.

The Japanese are guilty of discrimination and of violating basic human rights. The Japanese Government left stranded many thousands of Koreans on Sakhalin, with no means of support or sustenance, while ensuring that their own Japanese citizens were returned to Japan. This act of inhumanity should be brought to the attention of the United Nations. Japan should be made to take responsibility for the injustices they have ignored for the last 50 years.³⁷

Korean Atomic Bomb Victims

Forty to fifty thousand Koreans lost their lives in the Allied atomic bomb attacks of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Another 23,000 were wounded and returned home to live in poverty. No public assistance has been provided by the Japanese Government to Koreans injured by these bombs.

The Japanese Government insists that the Korea-Japan Treaty of 1965 excuses them of any further responsibility regarding these victims. Following tireless efforts by aging and weakening victims, Japan agreed to pay \$40 million dollars in May 1990.

We believe the Japanese attitude towards these victims is immoral. These Koreans were forcibly brought to Japan to work as laborers and were injured during the atomic bomb attacks while held against their will. Japanese victims have received adequate treatment and compensation. We demand \$23 billion in compensation for Korean victims, which is roughly equivalent to what the Japanese victims received.

During a brief period in the 1980's, approximately 300 Koreans received some treatment. In 1989 alone, however, wounded Japanese atomic-bomb victims received over 100,000 yen in compensation. In 1990 when Korean President Rho Tae Woo visited Japan, the Japanese Government promised to provide four trillion yen to Koreans injured by the bomb.

Demands of the APWVBF of Korea

We ask that the Japanese Government:

1. Admit its past criminal actions and formally apologize to the victims and families.
2. Examine the status of victim, release its lists of forced conscriptees, and make facts of the missing public.
3. Facilitate the return of Korean remains and organize memorial services on site.
4. Make immediate restitution to the victims and their families of unpaid wages, trust and forced individual savings according to internationally accepted human rights standards.
5. Stop Emperor Akihito's visits to Southeast Asia until he fulfills Japan's obligation to address damages done in that area.
6. Revise the history of the Pacific War in textbooks in Japanese schools to reflect the actuality of suffering endured by millions of Koreans, Chinese and Southeast Asians.

APWVBF of Korea's requests to the United Nations

1. Send a commission to research status of Korean victims of World War Two, including forced draftees, forced laborers and comfort women.
2. Request Japan to provide related documents to the United Nations.
3. Investigate discriminatory treatment of Korean victims and violations of human rights.
4. Re-investigate Korean war criminals who are victims rather than criminals, and restore their honor.
5. Request that Japan propose ways of compensation to victims.
6. Mediate retribution between the victims and Japan in accordance with United Nations guidelines.
7. Request a prompt solution considering the advanced age of many of the victims.

The 20,000 members of APWVBF do not feel that the Japanese Government has made full account of its atrocities, nor made adequate restitution to the victims and their families.

We feel that Japan does not deserve the right to become a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council nor does it deserve the honor of a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Japan has clearly demonstrated an unwillingness to exercise or honor the human rights of the Korean people. Why should they be granted the privilege (or the trust) to oversee human rights for the entire world?

Issues of Korean Human Rights During and After the Pacific War

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5. Ibid.
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7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. "Commercial Industries." Korea, 1924.
10. Park, K.S.
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12. Park, K.S.
13. Ibid.
14. Complaint Against the Japanese Government by APWVBF, 5/15/92.
15. Kim, J.M. "The Emperor's Army and Korean Comfort Women (Sam Il Books).
16. Park, K.S.
17. Report to the 85th Imperial Congress, p. 33. Prepared by Governor General in Korea, 1944

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21. Committee for Unification, Republic of Korea, Session 156-9, December 13, 1991.
22. Report to the 85th Imperial Congress, p. 78.
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24. Hankuk ILBO, November 16, 1991.
25. Ibid.
26. "Drafting Koreans as Forced Laborers and Comfort Girls during Japan's Colonial Rule of Korea." Tokyo, Japan, 1952.
27. Kurota Investigation of the Nanjing Massacre, 6/10/74.
28. Inabe. Material on General Okamura.
29. Legal Brief, APWVBF, Kakkai Kai Report 5/15/92.
30. New York Times, August 8, 1992. "Crusader Sustains Issue of Japan Wartime Brothels."
31. Asaumi. "On Women in the Front Line."
32. Ibid.
33. Directive on Conducts in War. War Education Department.
34. Anti-Syphilitic medications containing arsenic.
35. In Japanese, "Hakkiri" means to make sure. Hakkiri Associates is a Japanese organization whose mission it is to ensure that Japan recognize its post-war responsibility. This group endeavors to ascertain that Japan take responsibility for its war crimes. Towards this end, Hakkiri Associates collects data on survivors and families of victims in order to pursue legal action for the benefit of these victims.

36. When Japan occupied Korea, it forced Korean citizens to adopt Japanese names. For this reason, Japan has said it is impossible to differentiate the lists of Korean dead or missing and the lists of Japanese missing and dead. However, the registry papers for Japanese citizens indicate place drafted, place sent, where died/ injured, manner of death or injury, whether family was notified, and all of these registry papers bear an official seal. For Korean dead and injured, even those with Japanese names, no such checklists exist.
37. The Association of Separated Families in the Soviet Union, Dr. Du Hun Lee, President, Seoul, Korea.

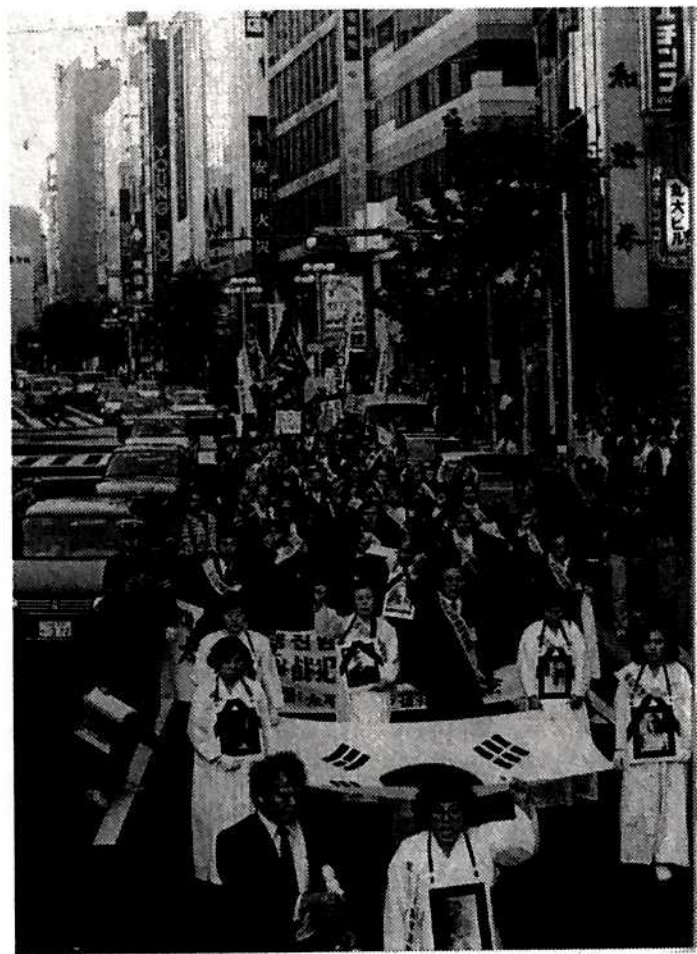
APPENDIX A

Personal History of Mrs. Soon Im Yang

- 1966- Married in Seoul, Korea, mother of a son and two daughters
- 1969 - Learned about father-in-law (Park, Jong Man) from mother-in-law at the time of her son's birth. Yang's father-in-law was sent to Japan as a laborer, and from there was sent to the South Pacific Islands. Her mother-in-law went in vain to Japan to discover his whereabouts; while there her daughter died of diarrhea. She is still waiting for her husband's return and still suffers great sorrow.
- 1971- Assisted during a period of registration of families and victims of the war.
- April 1973-Joined APWVBF and formed a local chapter
- 1974 - Began a movement against accepting the \$300 offer from the Korean Government. In October, attended a meeting with three government officials.
- 1976- Continued campaigning
- 1982- Elected member of the board of APWVBF
- June 1988- Initiated legal action in Japan
- March 26 to 29, 1990- Visited Seoul, Cheju, Pusan and Taegu for explanatory sessions on the legal actions against Japan.
- April 19 to May 1, 1990- Visited Japan
- April 20, 1990- Had first meeting with the Japanese Welfare Ministry and discovered that Korean victims of the War (military and military laborers) numbered 242,000 and were not segregated from Japanese. Was assisted by Socialist Party Congresswoman, Ito.
- April 27, 1990- At second meeting, Japan agreed to release lists of victims
- May 11 to 26, 1990- Demonstrated for 16 days against Korean President's visit to Japan before release of lists of victims, clarification of survivorship and welfare of Korean victims, 4 days and nights starvation demonstration, Japanese Embassy shut down for 3 days because of APWVBF demonstrations.
- June 15 to July 14, 1990- "March Across the Nation" (Pusan to Seoul), 5000 participants in this march of over 600 km to show solidarity in our effort to push Japan to take steps to repay Koreans for their criminal activities.
- September 18 to October 15, 1990- Hospitalized for fatigue and surgery.
- October 29, 1990- 22 plaintiffs brought a legal suit to "request a formal apology by Japan for their criminal activities" in district court in Tokyo.
- December 6, 1991- Brought suit against the Japanese Government for "unjust postwar treatment and reparation of 2 million yen each" at Tokyo District Court by 35 former conscripted soldiers and comfort women. Six former comfort women were included in April 1992, to make a total of 41 plaintiffs. This action assisted by a group of 10 attorneys represented by Takagi, Kenichi and Hakkiri Associates.
- 1991- Elected Chairperson in dealings with Japan
- April 25, 1992- Elected Co-Representative of APWVBF, 1400 members present
- June 1, 1992- First court session
- September 14, 1992- Second court session
- September 23, 1992- Registered Co-Representative of Board of APWVBF at court
- Present- Pursuing legal action to include all the victims and families of the Pacific War.
Furthermore, APWVBF will continue to work for victimized people in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific with the the help of peace loving citizens of the world.

APPENDIX B

Testimony



December 7, 1991, demonstration in Tokyo sponsored by APWVBF to show support for the upcoming trial in Tokyo. Mrs. Yang is in front.



Chun, Tai-Im waits for her son's return. She is 99 years old and for many years, she gave a daily offering to God for her son's safe return. Early at dawn she would pick the cleanest pebble by the brook and draw fresh water from the well. After 50 years, she was told her son had died. Mrs. Chun was interviewed by Mrs. Yang at APWVBF's office in Seoul, Korea, October 20, 1992.

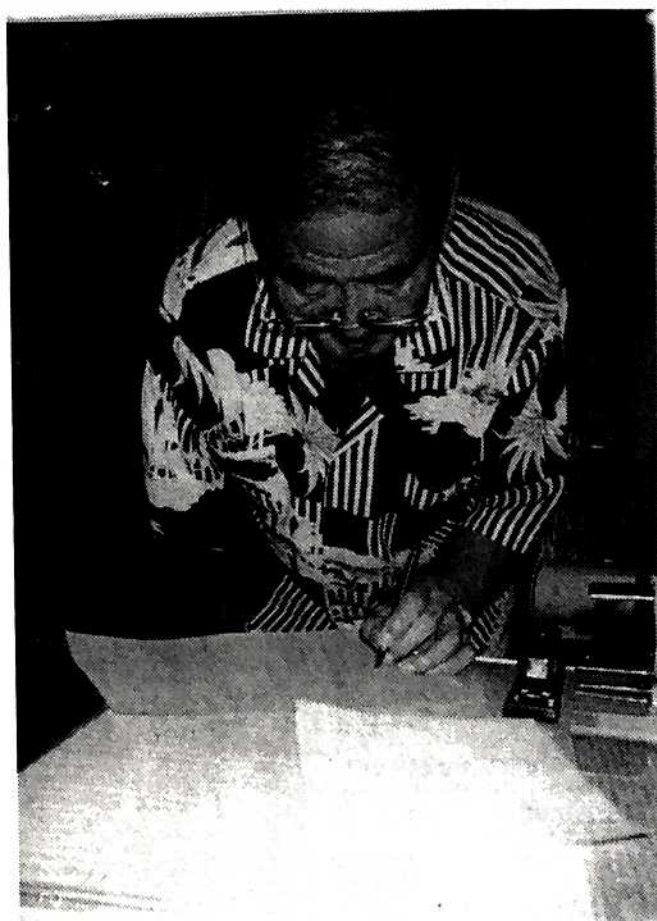
權 奇 泰 (松岡英吉) 사진



金 惠 淑 사진



Kwon, Kee Tae and his wife, Kim, Hae Sook. Mr. Kwon, formerly a school teacher, was taken in March 1945 as a drafted soldier. To date, his whereabouts are unknown. Mrs. Kim registered with APWVBF. APWVBF has repeatedly requested documents from the Japanese Public Welfare Department concerning Mr. Kwon, but they claim to have no record of him. She is one of the 41 plaintiffs in the current civil case in Tokyo.



Lee, Chee-woo drew this picture at the office of PWVBF, Seoul, Korea, August 1992.

Lee, Chee-woo, laborer.

I was born on February 17, 1925. In 1942, I was 18 years old (17) when we were drafted to work for the Nissan Ku Song Mine. From my village Po Chun, 97 were conscripted. When we arrived at the mine in Japan, there were about 300 Koreans from Kyung Sang Do, Chula Do, and Kyung Kee Do. All together there were 400 Koreans including our 97. A little later we were transported to Kyushu Coal Mining Company. It's there that I was wounded; the ceiling came down and I lost my right arm and my left leg below the knee. They gave me 1700 yen and kicked me out.

In 1944, I tried to sue the Japanese Government. The Japanese court told me that the country was in a state of emergency thus they could not handle civil cases. They gave me the papers and I lost them during the Korean War.

There was one more surgery done on the leg. My children support me. I have not been comfortable to be a burden to my sons and their wives. Poverty continues on to the second generation. The Japanese Government and its Emperor ought to pay for those who fought for them. My brother, too, was taken as a laborer and died. Now his family is destitute.

Mr. Chee-Woo Lee

37

九州煤田製鐵所 新井五坑

1942년 7월 중순에 사고 당함

사고 당시 18세

천장 ceiling

돌 rocks

현장에 70이 정도



Kyushiu Coal Mine-It was about July of 1942 when accident happened. I was buried under the rocks. I was 18 years old. I lost right arm and right leg.

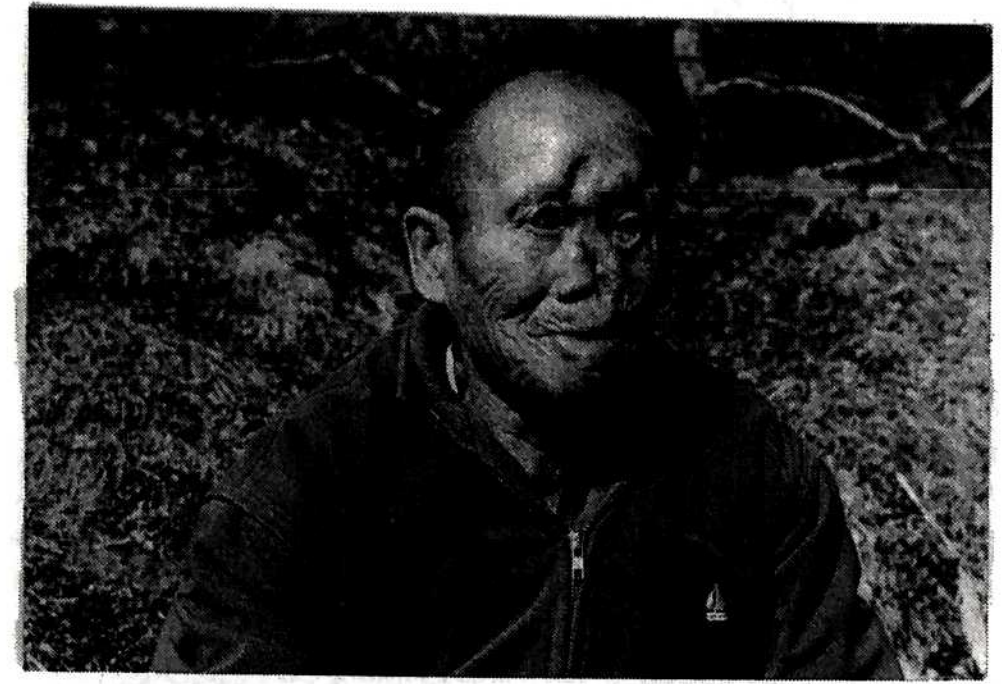
This was where I got burried

path for pushcart



Mr. Chee-Woo today, 1992.

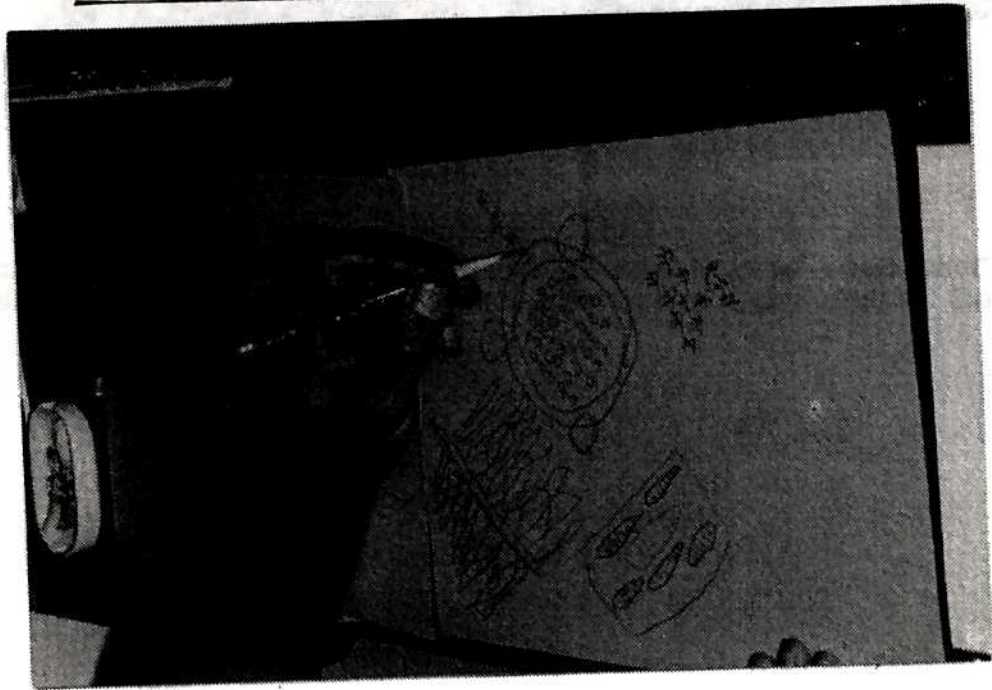
(손수칼) 李致雨 (Seo Ji-u) with a red seal.



Huh, Bong Soo, born December 10, 1918. Former forced laborer injured in the war, untreated and abandoned by the Japanese.



Mrs. Yang helps Mr. Park draw, offices of PWVBF, Seoul, August 27, 1992.

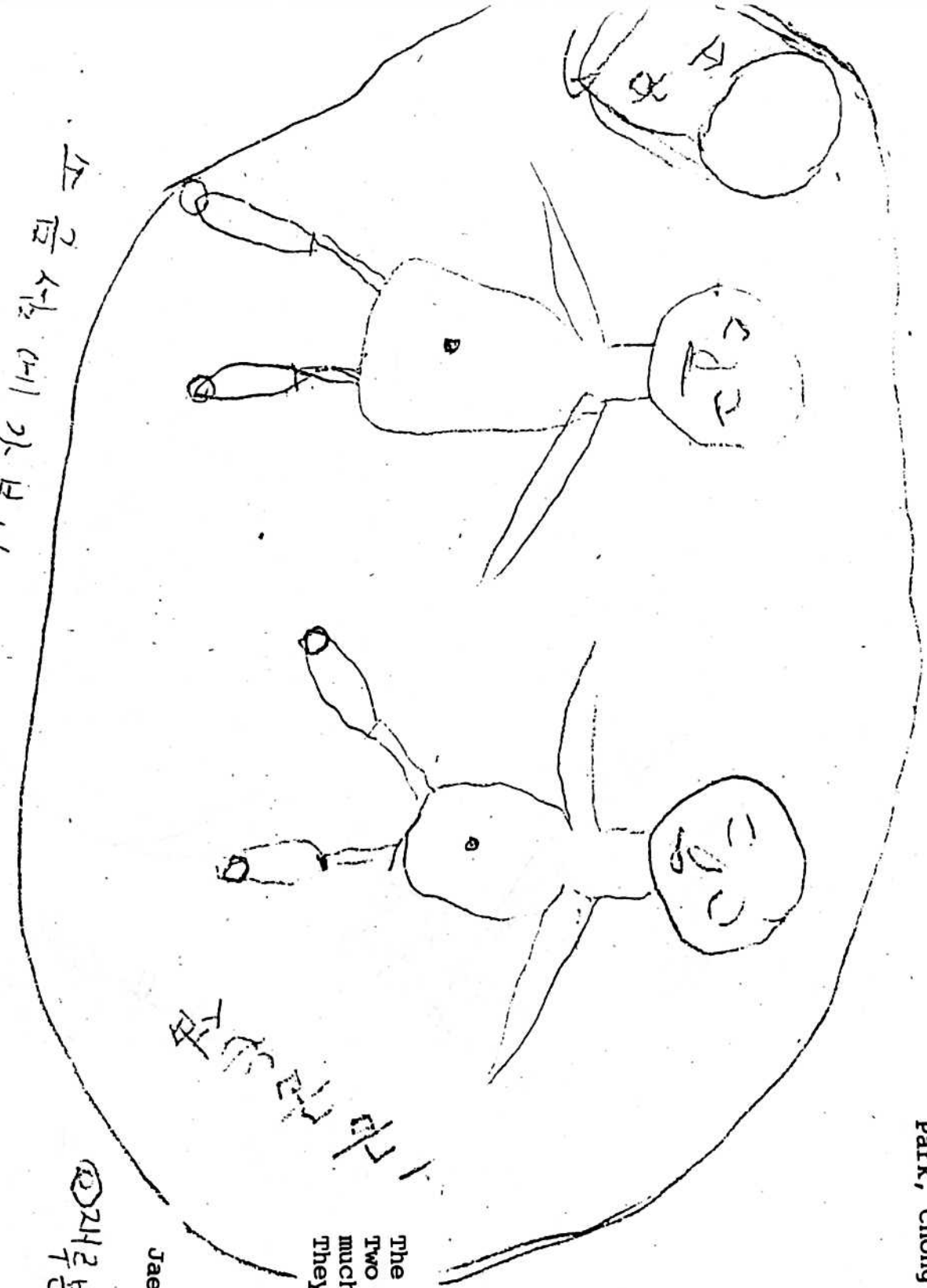


Mr. Chong Won Park draws the events that led to the "whale meat" incident at the offices of PWVBF, Seoul, Korea, August 27, 1992.

소금색에 가보너가 두사람은 엉덩이와 허벅지
 살이 많이 곁려 죽은 동포는 시피 러게
 보통 부어 많이

① 재물 분 사에 석 연 어 난 일
 12.8.27

Jaerubun Island



The left circle is salt.
 Two comrades lost
 much of their thighs.
 They were very swollen.

Park, Chong Won

A99



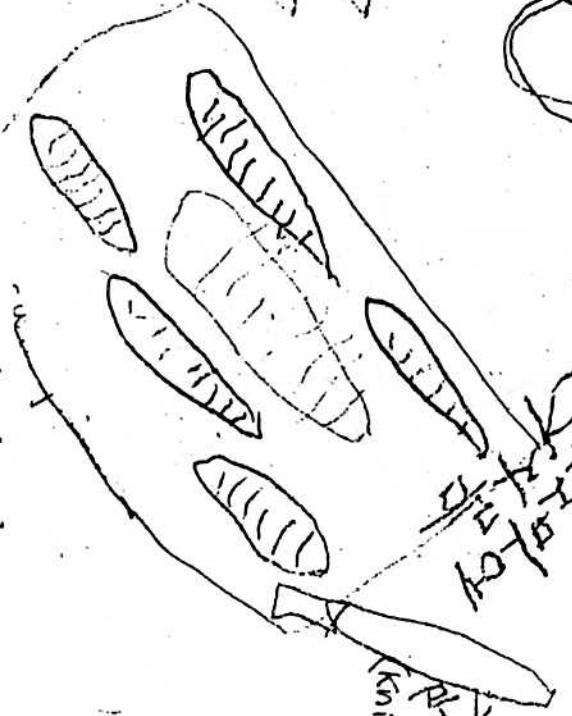
Mrs. Yang interviews Mr. Young Koo Kim at the PWVBF office, Seoul, Korea, 25 August 1992. Mr. Kim was a farmer who, at age 24, was taken to Hokaido, Japan. While digging a tunnel, he was buried in the rocks. He drew pictures of the accident.



The meat was wrapped in palm tree leaves.

The drum lid was used as a skillet.

wood cutting board



In February of 1945, Japanese soldiers told us to eat "whale meat". It was our friends.

45. 2월 23일 하와이 2개 군도에서 일본군들이 우리에게 '고래 고기'를 먹게 했다. 그들은 우리에게 '고래 고기'를 먹게 했다. 그들은 우리에게 '고래 고기'를 먹게 했다.

92. 8. 27. 1992
귀국 후 나는 그때 죽은 동료들의 유언대로 (knife) 칼이 위키에서 새변 다 먹었다
③ 2월 23일 하와이에서

Park, Chong Won

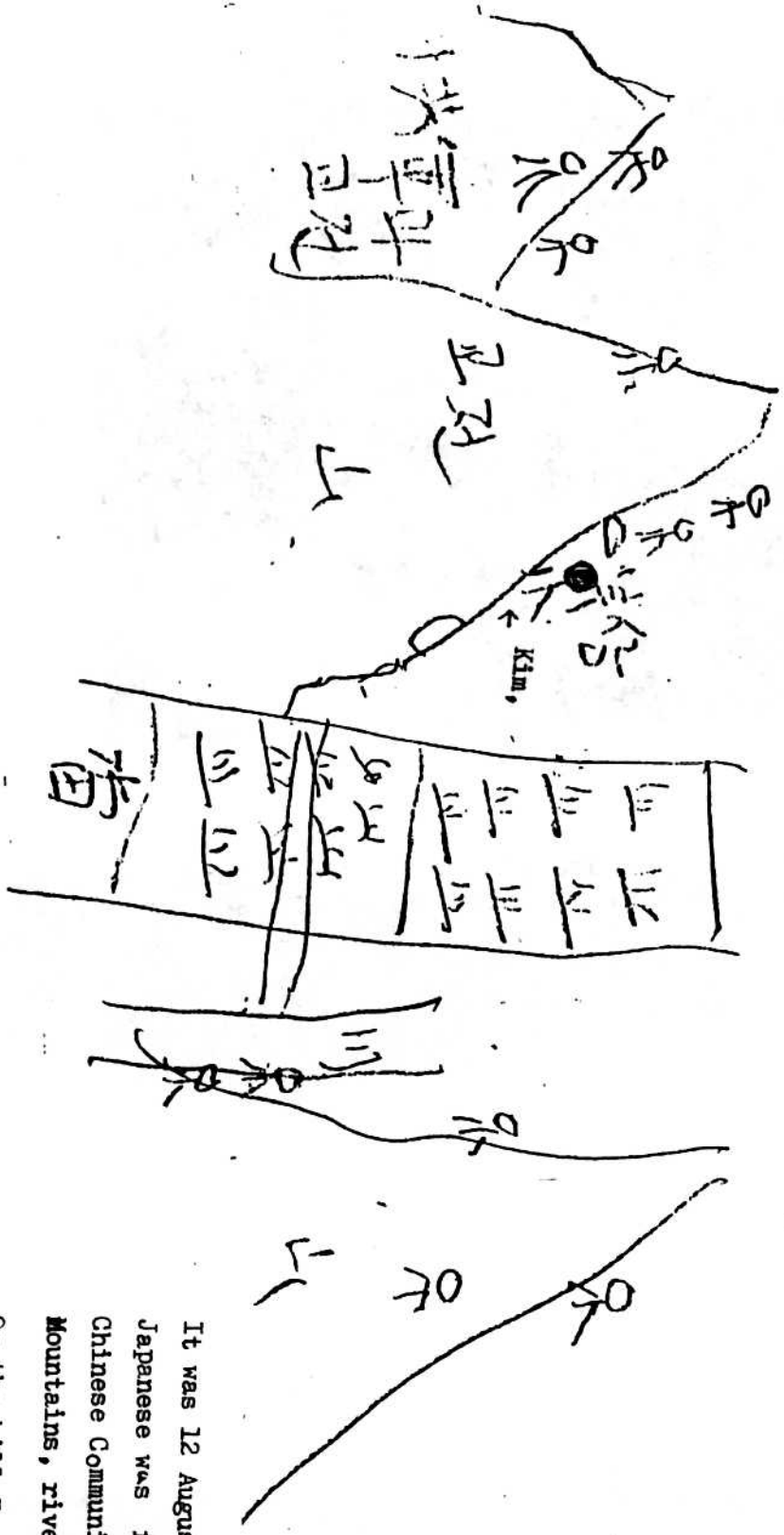


Kim, Hak Soon, former comfort woman at the hearing, Civil Court, Tokyo, Japan, December 6, 1991.



Comfort women, pregnant and working, Kyung Hyang Shin Moon, January 16, 1992.

1945年8月12日
華民國 打石省 巨港 延縣 推為 統戰 機關
예시 八고 營站. 당시 2251, 吳 齊 營 站 長
(石 營 站 營 站 長 吳 齊)



It was 12 August 1945 in China.
Japanese was fighting with the
Chinese Communists. There were
Mountains, river and rice paddies.
On the hill I was wounded.

712 하영

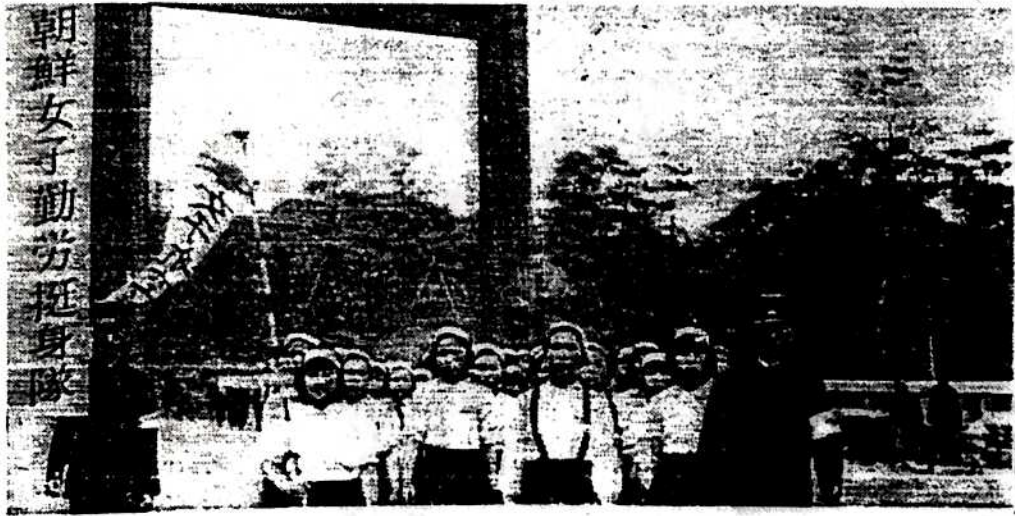
Pictures drawn at
PWVBF office, Seoul
21 August 1992

Aug 21 1992

Kim, Ha Young

나고야지역에 끌려온 조선인들의 참상

화보



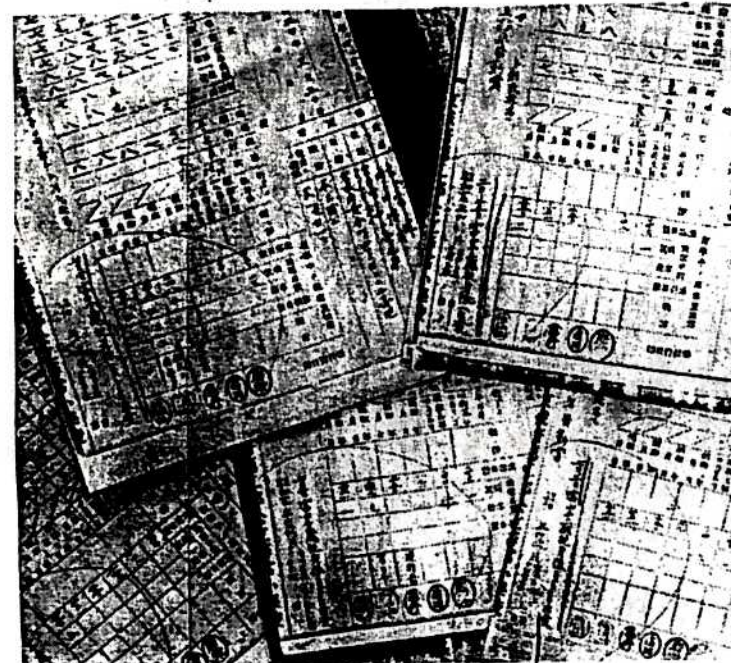
나어린 여자 항공정신대
국민학생밖에 안돼 보이는 조
선의 어린 소녀들. 이들은 나고
야의 항공기 공장에서 날자도 하
기 힘든 도정작업을 했다.

Toward the end of World War Two, Korean grade school children were taken to Nagoya, Japan to work in a war plane factory. Han Kyo Rae Shin Moon, Seoul, Korea, August 15, 1991.

(56쪽)
이경희

여학생挺身隊 100명 서울

학교마다 할당 비밀리



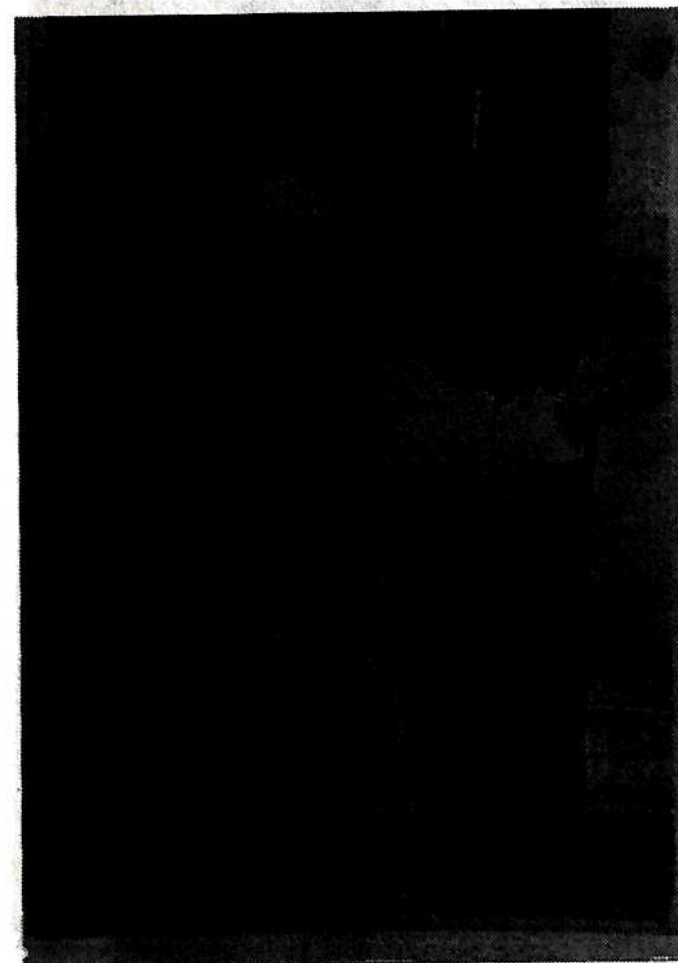
이케다씨

「모자녀(慰勞隊) 100명
서울의 100여개 학교마다
정신대(挺身隊) 100명의
여학생을 할당해 비밀리
모집했다.」
이케다씨는 「당시 학교
장(田田校長)은 88.08.08
학원신문(學園新聞)을
보면서 「모자녀(慰勞隊)
100명 모집」 기사를
보았다.」
이케다씨는 「당시 학교
장(田田校長)은 88.08.08
학원신문(學園新聞)을
보면서 「모자녀(慰勞隊)
100명 모집」 기사를
보았다.」

Segye Times, January 15, 1992. Ms. Ikeda telephoned this newspaper to report that she had recruited grammar school children to be comfort women. During World War Two, she was a teacher in Seoul. The papers are school logs showing grammar school comfort women draftees.



A picture of "Comfort women" left behind as the Japanese retreated from the South Pacific Islands, February 16, 1945, as appeared in the Chosun Shin Bo, April 30, 1992.



Han, Un Soo, wearing a sash that reads "Women's Committee of Great Japan." This young Korean woman's duty was to welcome Japanese soldiers; she was a comfort woman.



어처구니없는 「환송」 일제의 강압에 못이겨 끌려온 12세 국교여학생 등 한국인여학생들이 평안북도 정발원뒤 송별모임에 참석하고있다.

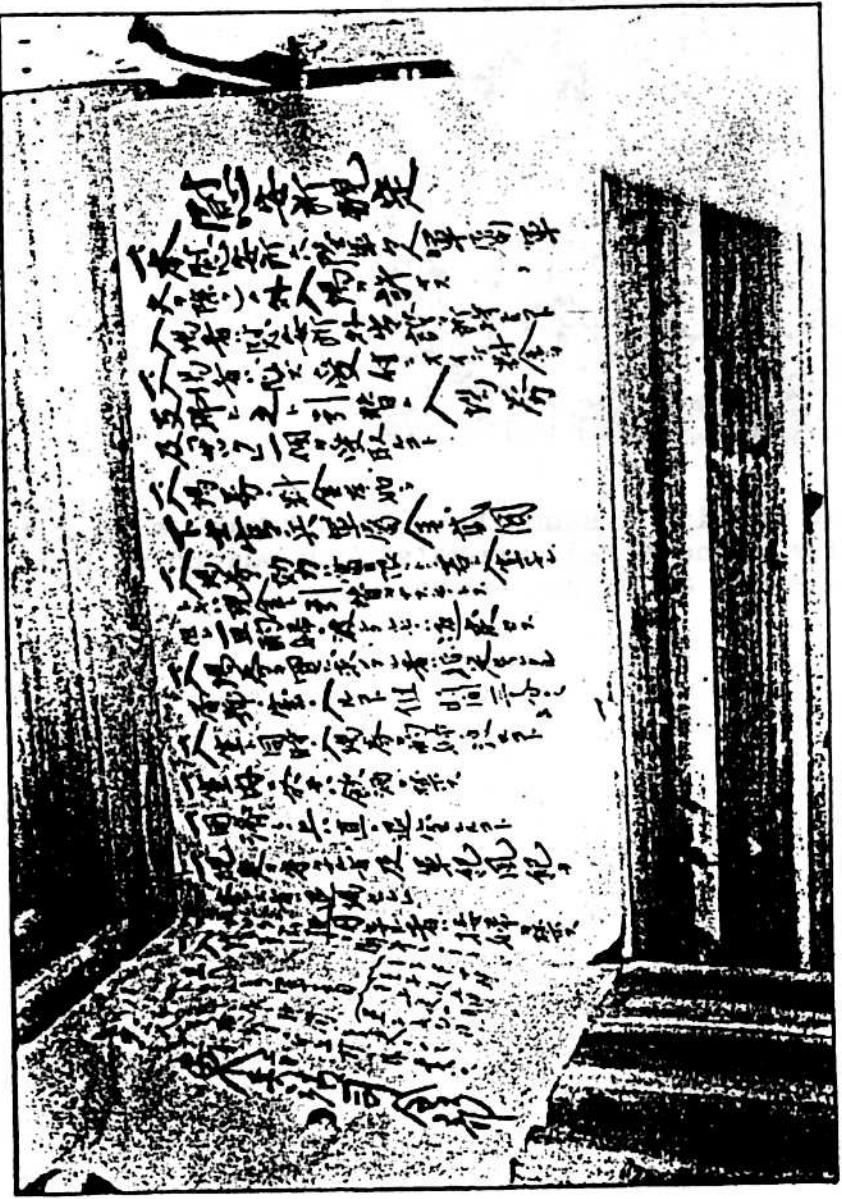
Kyung Hyang Shin Moon, January 16, 1992. Caption reads: 12 year old grammar school children taken as comfort women were present at a farewell party.

昭和十二年末、支那事変
出征より、今十五年頃に至
るまで、兵員間で話題とな
り、又実際に使用されてい
た衛生サックは、当時、名
の通った商品、例えば、ハ
イト美人の標記物であった。
所が昭和十六年の太平
洋戦争開始を前にした企業
統制、軍需用品指定などの
、からくりの中で、サックの
メイカー「国際ゴム」より
軍需品として野戦貨物廠、
各師団、各連隊、大隊、中
隊、各兵員へと、流通する
一つの品物が出来上がった。
その名は「突撃一着」で
ある。



"Hygienic sac", condom, distributed during the Sino-Japanese War, circa 1937. On it is written "charge." Condoms were part of the regular army's supplies and were distributed to soldiers. Private collection of Mr. Asabu.

昭和十三年二月七日
上海郊外、軍三路近くの楊家宅に開設せられたる軍経管によ
り、陸軍駐在所の入口に掲げた規定



Sign posting the regulations for a comfort station near Shanghai, February 7, 1938.



Kang, Soon Ae (Japanese name - Maiko), comfort woman

Birthdate, December 15, 1927.

I was born in Japan but came to Korea to live when I was 11 years old. My father was taken to work in the mines and my mother worked as a cook and as a porter of rice. My sister worked as a baby sitter/maid for a local Japanese family and disappeared. When my mother went to get our water ration, my little brother went with her. It was winter. Without provocation, the Japanese police beat my brother, his name was Wiamoto, with a saber-case and he fell on the icy ground and died.

I was 14 and the "virgin quota" had become fierce. My mother used a wooden chopstick to pull my hair up into a bun, which was a symbol of a married woman at the time. The rumor was that the Japanese wouldn't snatch married women. Young girls were kept hidden at home for fear of being snatched.

Once a month we had to go near the train station to get a monthly ration of rice, wheat, a pair of black rubber loafers. Then we had to sing the Japanese National Anthem to receive the ration. My grandma went to get the ration, but couldn't sing the anthem, so she returned home without it. So I had to go and sing

"Kamikayo..." They said I sang really well and I got more rice and another pair of shoes (for my grandmother and my brother) and a small can of soy cooked meat. This news spread in the village and all the young girls in hiding came out to sing and get the ration. This was nothing but bait to lure the young girls. All 14 were soon taken from my village. Later, more came and there were about 35.

We were put in a local inn and awoken at 5:30 every morning to exercise for 30 minutes. We sang "Kamikayo" and they taught us how to travel in the open sea, "...move your body with the waves to curtail seasickness. You can also chew on string." The next day my father came to visit. That night, about 7 pm, we were put on a boat to Shimonoseki, Japan. Then by train we went to Hiroshima. We were joined by 30 more North Koreans.

There, the Japanese changed our names to Japanese names. I was named Maiko. I was 14. We worked in a factory packing fruit. We weren't allowed to even go to the restroom for fear we might run away. We used a basin. After 5 or 6 months, they rationed us two pairs of panties, one pair of sneakers, one pair of socks, one towel, two handkerchiefs, one lotion, one comb, nail clippers, one ribbon, one hair rubberband and a set of clothes. They gave us 50 chun and told us we would soon be returning home. We bought hot paste, garlic, green pepper, and got on a boat named Kurimoto. On board we met 17 Korean drafted soldiers and other Koreans from North Kyung Sang. The boat was hit by a mine and we were rescued by Osaka Maru. Two Korean girls died and 33 survived. Later we landed in Palau Hondo Machi, in the South Pacific.

By truck we were taken to Palau Hondo Machi; this was about one month after leaving Hiroshima. There were other Koreans there. The next day, we were put into the sex stations. From 9 am to 9 pm we serviced regular soldiers. After 9 pm, the officers came, until 7 am. Once a week we were given medical check-ups at Kororo Hospital and were given #606 injections. If we were sick, we were given morphine or aspirin.

We supplemented our meager diet with potatoes. We dug holes for 6,000 people. When the bombing became fierce outside the tunnel there were about 20 tents for women to serve the military.

We were often stabbed for non-compliance. I still have scars. I have been injured by shell splinters.

By October, United States soldiers landed. We were grouped according to whether we were Japanese, Korean or Okinawain. They took our picture one by one. I was returned to Masan, Korea. I was 19 years old.

Kim, Sang-Hee

1943년 8월 중순경
싱가포르



상무사의 새빌리먼트

1945년 8월 15일 새벽

각렬과 자궁 안 주 귀

지진 마취모드 상이 육군병원

에 이반시켜 처우 생애로 사귀

났다 나의 생애는 본노와 리우

고마움 의 주백주

몸은 병이 드르잖아 가요 내영동쪽

라능바라보면 동쪽만 다 일본은

내나의 시골을 보상하라

92년 8.25

金 杵 穂

DATE: 8/25/92



Kim, Sang Hee -- comfort girl (pictures of self and friend, also taken as a comfort girl)

It was in 1935, about the middle of November. I went out to get the picture and three men got us. I started to cry and one police kicked me and kept saying "go no bakayaro (you stupid). We were transported by truck and finally to Daeki (Kyung Sang Book Do) and finally ended up in DaeRyun, China. There they transported us to a boat. I wanted to kill myself but how? There was a small bottle of disinfectant to get rid of flies in the bathroom. I thought of using it. Then the military police blew the whistle for us to assemble. They wanted to assign a room for us. I was given the last corner room.

I stayed with the army for four years. When they moved, I moved. By 1943, maybe March, we were in Singapore. The Army was very secretive. We moved around according to orders. One time we were on a Navy boat for two or three days. They told us it was Taiwan. Three days later we move again. About 15 days later we were in Saigon. I missed my mother, "Mother, with my body and mind all I am waiting for is to die," I mumbled over and over. We are moving again. At the stop, military police escorted us to our rooms. I was allotted to #2 Hoshinoya. They put me on a truck. There were several hundred soldiers waiting for us. I am sick with tuberculosis and I have cervical cancer. Once I was sick and a Japanese military officer, Michimoto, put me in a military hospital and I was helped. I am angry and resentful. I want revenge. My body is crying for it.



Kim, Kun-Ja, a former comfort woman, wearing a disguise to hide her shame, at a hearing, June 1, 1992, Tokyo, Japan.

Kaneda Kimiko (Kim, Kun Ja)-- comfort girl

I was born in Kyung Sang Book Do in October 1921. My father was a minister. Many of his friends were put in prison for not worshipping at Shinto shrines. The Japanese police were starting to hassle my father so he hid in the hills. There were four brothers and sisters including myself. My mother was a weaver but the poverty was with us. I was the older daughter so I was employed as a maid with the deacon's family. My brothers also left home to look for jobs. A Japanese neighbor offered me a better job at a factory and a few friends and I (five of us in all) went with three uniformed men to Chun Chin. We rode on "hikari" (train). When we got there there were two ox drawn wagons and two trucks. We picked up another 10 girls on the way. There were already 20 other girls, including two Chinese women. We were put in rooms. I demanded to know where the factory was. My friend "Yoshiko" refused to have a soldier and she was shot. I heard later that she died. We also did military laundry. One officer came to rape me when I first arrived; as I struggled he stabbed me. I still have a scar on my breast. More shipments of girls arrived. I was sent to Sik Ka Chung. There I worked in a sex station. It was full of girls like me who were deceived into believing there were factory jobs; there were others who had been snatched off the streets.

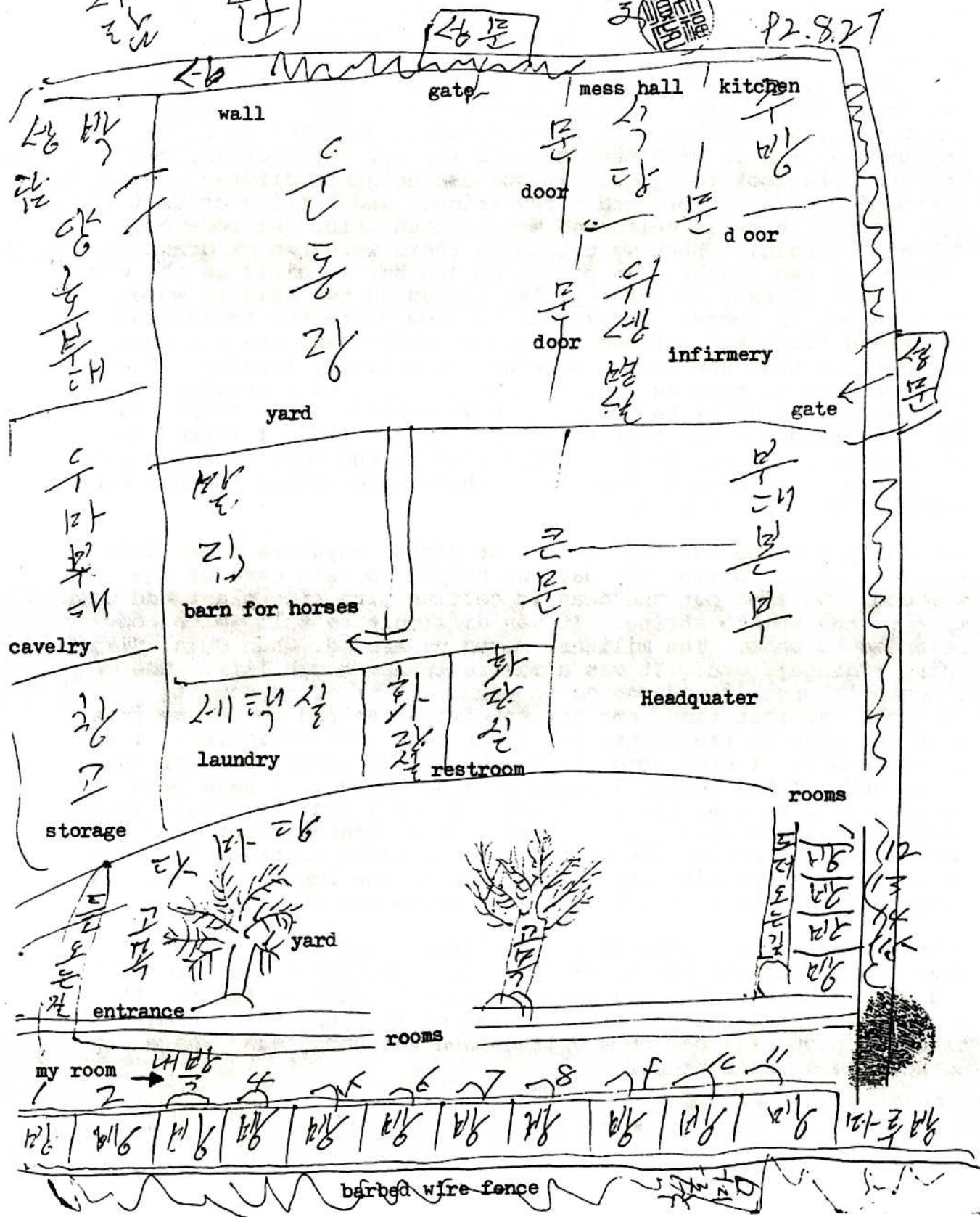
The daily routine was like this. At night, anywhere from 15-20 soldiers came. During the day, we helped to take care of the wounded. We also put the dead in coffins with rice plant and sent them to the Shinto shrine. It was difficult to tell which body belonged to whom. The military moved us around, Chun Chin, Sikga Chang (Chinga), etc...It was a miserable and rough life. One Chinese laborer introduced me to opium. I tried to commit suicide. At that time, one Korean officer helped to set me free with the idea of treatment, for I was deep into addiction. I was 24 years old. I came home and 6 or 7 months later, the war came to an end. I had worked 7 years as a sex slave. I have been working as a maid at the local inn. At 29 I had the "whole inside taken out" (hysterectomy). I have been on tranquilizers and pain medication. I would like to tell the Japanese Government to own up to their responsibility in the name of the Emperor for it was under his name that we were put into these sex stations.

Kanese Kimiko was a witness at the first court trial in Tokyo, June 1992. She was too ashamed to appear publicly and wore a wig and dark glasses. She was too emotional to talk at times. At present she lives alone. She was one of 41 witnesses. Kimiko drew two pictures: her home village and the campground where she worked--hers was room #2.

1937년 봄의 일

Chinese village

192.8.27



◇ 편히 잠드소서, 숲속에서 찾아낸 중군위안부의 무덤 앞에서 위령제에 참가한 한일 양국인사들이 고사문을 읽고있다. [재일동포사진작가 韓昭씨 제공]

Han Kuk I Bo, July 1, 1992, offering at the burial place for comfort women, Keelim Sung, China.