

## **Omata Yukio [小俣行男], a journalist for Yomiuri Shimbun**

Excerpts from his book *Battlefield and a Journalist* (1967): A report from Yangon, Myanmar in 1942

*OVERVIEW: Yukio Omata was a war correspondent from Yomiuri Newspaper of Japan, dispatched to Yangon, Myanmar in 1942. Omata recorded stories of the women who had been sent to "comfort stations" by means of false promises that they would be working at military supply factories.*

Excerpts:

40-50 Korean women disembarked from a cargo ship that arrived this morning and went to the lodging... The one that received me was about twenty-three or -four years old. She spoke Japanese well. She said she was a public school teacher. "How come a school teacher ended up a place like this?" I asked, and she answered with fury, "We were deceived. They recruited women to work at an armaments factory in Tokyo. I applied only because I wanted to go to Tokyo. We went aboard a ship at the Incheon port, but the ship did not head to Tokyo, but to the south, and further down to the south, and then finally arrived in Singapore. Half of the women got off there and the rest of us were taken here to Burma. We can't go home now by foot nor can we run away. We just gave up. The most pitiful are the young women who have no idea what's going on. There are 8 such girls in the age of sixteen and seventeen. They hate this work so much that they're crying all the time. Is there any way you can help us?"