

## Masayashi Matsumoto, a former Japanese military medic

Interview by: Yeongseo Im, a reporter for MBC News Desk

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English
An aged former Japanese military medic, who was in charge of the physical examination of Korean "comfort women", testified to MBC about the situation at that time.
This is a clear evidence that the Japanese military managed the "comfort women."
This is an exclusive report by correspondent Yeongseo Im.
Masayashi Matsumoto is ninety-one years old.
Conscripted at the age of 21 in 1944, he was placed in the headquarter of the 7th battalion of the Gattame Corps in Northwest China as a medic.
The first thing he witnessed in the 300-member unit was the shocking scene of 6 to 7 Korean "comfort women" serving the troops.
<i>Being forced... they were slaves, so to speak. Sex slaves.</i>
His main duty as a medic was to exam these women for sexually transmitted diseases.
<i>My job was to test them for STDs once a month. The military doctor did it but the medics were supposed to help, so we did it together.</i>
There were so many users of the "comfort station" on the weekends that the medical officer set the check-up dates for a weekday and announced it. This was a rule that should never be violated.
<i>(Condoms in the medical room) piled up like a mountain. My job was to give them out to the soldiers and tell them to be careful.</i>
He recollected that the "comfort station" was a building right next to the unit, and the station is surrounded by walls so it was impossible to escape.
It's a memory he doesn't even want to remember, but he said he couldn't just bury it, because distortion against the "comfort women" issue was continuing.
<i>We did terrible things... Japan... Because we don't realize it, we make mistakes again.</i>
Correspondent Yeongseo Im, Tokyo.
Prime Minister Abe will hold a U.S. - Japan summit tomorrow.
We are paying close attention to what stance Abe will take on some of the controversial history issues including the Japanese military "comfort women" problem.
Yeongseo Im from MBC Tokyo.
Correspondent Yeongseo Im, Tokyo.