

CINCPAC-CINCPOA Preliminary POW Interrogation No. 75

Annotation Source: Seoul Metropolitan Archive

Annotation and Image Link: <https://archives.seoul.go.kr/item/48>

Between June and August 1944, the U.S. Navy occupied the previously Japanese-held Pacific Islands region including Saipan, Tinian, and Peleliu. During this period, the Navy captured many Korean laborers, Japanese officers, and soldiers as POWs. The U.S. Navy interrogated the captured POWs and further interrogated them if a POW appears to have highly valuable information. This document is an interrogation report of a Japanese POW, Hoshino Joichi (age 26), created by the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, the U.S. Navy on November 6, 1944.

According to the report, Hoshino was conscripted into the Japanese Army on December 1, 1941, in Nagoya and sent to Hankow, China after being assigned to the 18th Infantry Regiment, 10th Infantry Company as a rifleman in late March 1942. Hoshino moved to Haicheng, Manchuria, with the 18th Infantry Regiment for training and maneuvers on September 2, 1942. He continued to move to Busan, Korea, then to Saipan in February, 1944 and finally arrived in Guam in May, 1944 where he was captured by the U.S. Marines on July 25, 1944. Hoshino stated that when he was in Haicheng on September 2, 1942, he heard that Korean women were brought in as “comfort women” and that they were examined for diseases. According to Hoshino, Japanese troops were forbidden to use the civilian “comfort stations” in town. The report contains a map showing the locations of three “comfort stations” based on Hoshino’s statement. One is close to the Japanese military base while another one is close to the parade ground. This is an important document that confirms the locations of “comfort stations” in Manchuria and the existence of Korean “comfort women” in the region.

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