

On the Treatment of Travelers Who are Admittedly Unable to Obtain the Authorized Certificates for Travel to China (Vol. 2)

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Locations: Penglai "comfort station," Qilingxu, Qin County, Guangdong Province; vicinity of Nanning city, Guangxi Province (China); Kaohsiung (Taiwan)

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Annotation:

This document is Appendix no. 1 to the document sent from the Foreign Affairs Department Director of the Government-General in Taiwan to the Director of the American Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (no. 162, September 2, 1940). It contains an inquiry from the Governor of Kaohsiung, Taiwan to the Foreign Affairs Department Director of the Government-General in Taiwan.

The gist of the document is as follows: A "comfort station" owner who operated a "comfort station" exclusively for the Hayashi Unit of Shioda Unit in the Southern China Expeditionary Army based in Qin Prefecture, Guangdong Province, had recently been working near Nanning city, Guangxi Province where the troops are located. On June 30, he left Guangxi and entered Taiwan for the purpose of recruiting prostitutes. The owner (whose place of family register was Taipei and current address was Fonglai "comfort station" in Qin Prefecture, Guangdong Province; and 22 years old) carried a certificate issued by the military with him, as shown in the appendix.

After recruiting six prostitutes, the owner submitted travel permit applications to the Kaohsiung prefectural government for himself and the six women to travel back to China. In principle, overseas travelers entering China were required to carry proof of travel purpose issued by the consular police in the region, as per the notification of Foreign Affairs, no. 112 (May 13, 1940). However, it was impossible for the owner to obtain a travel permit due to the distance from the consular police. The Governor of Kaohsiung therefore concludes that insofar as a traveler's identity and purpose of travel are confirmed just as in this case involving a business serving exclusively the military, a provost marshal or a commanding officer in charge should be able to issue a travel permit for practical reasons. On this matter, the Governor request a response from the Foreign Affairs Department Director.

In a nutshell, the military imposed expedient measures to facilitate logistics for the military "comfort women," which indicates that the "comfort women" were not under the jurisdiction of the consulate but rather part of military supplies.

Attachments:

- Permit issued by the commanding officer, Yoshihide Hayashi, Shioda Unit, Southern China

Expeditionary Army (June 27, 1940) (Appendix no. 1)

- Travel permit issued by the commander of the Military Police Detachment in Qinzhou, Moichi Adachi (June 27, 1940) (Appendix no. 2)

- Certificate of recruitment issued by the commander of the Military Police Detachment, Adachi (June 28, 1940) (Appendix no. 3)

Sources:

WAM Collection (Foreign Affairs_013)

Collection of the Asian Women's Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 149-159.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 267-270.

Sourcebook by Yoshimi, pp. 130-138.