

## **A Request to Facilitate the inbound Travel of the “comfort women” for the Imperial Japanese Army**

Author: Consular Police of the Japanese Consulate General in Shanghai, China

Date: December 21, 1937

File: Documents for Approval by the Minister of Home Affairs (1938, Vol. 1)

Locations: Shanghai, China

Keywords: Mobilization

Annotation by Hye-in Han, Ph.D. Researcher, Sungkyunkwan University

Annotation Link: [http://contents.nahf.or.kr/item/item.do?levelId=iswc.d\\_001\\_0040\\_0070](http://contents.nahf.or.kr/item/item.do?levelId=iswc.d_001_0040_0070)

### **Annotation:**

This document was prepared by the Consular Police of the Japanese Consulate General in Shanghai, China, on December 21, 1937. Later on, it was attached for reference to the official document titled “On the Alleged Abduction of Women Exploiting the Current Situation” reported by the Chief of the Criminal Affairs Department in Wakayama Prefecture (dated February 7, 1938). The document provides important evidence demonstrating that the Japanese military and administrative authorities controlled every aspect of the establishment of the “comfort stations,” including recruitment, overseas transportation, and the supervision of the “comfort women” and the “comfort stations.”

Following the “The Amendment of the Military regulation on Field Commissaries” (September 21, 1937) that allowed the installation of “comfort stations” as part of field commissaries, the Japanese government authorities proceeded to discuss the division of responsibilities and drafted a plan regarding the establishment and management of “comfort stations.”

According to this document, the Consulate General would oversee the overall aspects of recruitment and transportation of the “comfort women”; specifically, its roles included issuing permission to run business for the operators of “comfort stations,” background checks on “comfort women” and their contracts, facilitating formalities of their entry, coordination with other authorities to handle issues regarding “comfort stations” operators and “comfort women,” approval of their stay in Shanghai and transfer them to the Military Police. In the meantime, the Military Police would supervise the transport of the operators and “comfort women” to assigned locations. Also, the Military Attaché’s Office would oversee the construction and management of comfort stations as well as general health examinations and STD tests.

According to this document, the initial plan was to recruit 3,000 women and the recruitment of comfort women was conducted in Japan and Korea. Given the fact that this document was referenced in “On the Alleged Abduction of Women Exploiting the Current Situation,” it is inferred that the plan was executed as described in the document, and the forced recruitment (abduction) of the “comfort women” occurred during the recruitment process.

### **Attachments:**

Application form for temporary prostitution business permit with two photos attached (Form no. 1)

Consent form (Form no. 2)

Certificate of seal impression

Certified copy of family register

Questionnaire for prostitutes (Form no. 3)

Sources:

WAM Collection (Police\_007)

Collection of the Asian Women's Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 36-44.

Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, A05032040800

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 136-138.