

## Ten-Day Report on Hygiene in mid-August 1939

Author: Medical Department, Expeditionary Army in Southern China

Date: August 1939

File: Secret Documents of the Army in China, no. 1 2/3 (1941) the Ministry of Army

Locations: Guangdong Province (China)

Keywords: Hygiene / management and supervision

Annotation Source: Northeast Asian History Foundation

Annotation Link: [http://contents.nahf.or.kr/id/NAHF.iswc.d\\_001\\_0010\\_0440](http://contents.nahf.or.kr/id/NAHF.iswc.d_001_0010_0440)

Annotation:

This document is a ten-day report on Hygiene, prepared by the medical department of the Expeditionary Army in Southern China in mid-August 1939.

The document informed the military police and the consulate general of the regulations of owners who run entertainment businesses, the medical examinations of entertainment workers, and restaurant hygiene inspections with an eye to enhance the prevention of STDs, as specified in the attachments no. 4, 5, and 6. The military police summoned Japanese prostitutes and explained the notified information to them. Also included in this document are detailed instructions as to the strict control and management of the Japanese prostitutes serving outside the “comfort stations,” and the restrictions on soldiers’ off-base travels. The military police and consulate general enforced these rules in cooperation with the military hygiene agency. STD tests were performed once a week on professional entertainers and prostitutes who served the military. When the consulate general office moved, the office made a report on the names of the prostitutes (nicknames / real names) within its jurisdiction to the military police; the military police then reported the list to the Army headquarters and relevant military bases. Chinese prostitutes who worked outside “comfort stations” were licensed prostitutes and were subject to regular STD tests, but military and civilian personnel were banned from visiting the Chinese licensed prostitutes.

This document shows that Japanese authorities managed Japanese professional entertainers and prostitutes serving outside “comfort stations” in the same way they did to “comfort women.” Although Japanese military and civilian personnel were prohibited from contacting with Chinese prostitutes, Japanese authorities kept Chinese prostitutes under control and treated them as licensed prostitutes due to the possibility of off-base prostitutions.

Details:

<Attachments>

(...)

Attachment no. 4. Notice on the regulation of prostitutes who serve outside the military “comfort stations” (August 13, 1939 / Notice to the Troops in South China, no. 103)

Attachment no. 5. Notice on the medical examination of prostitutes in town (August 16, 1939 / South China Medical Officers, no. 845)

Attachment no. 6. Notice (August 17, 1939)

Attachment no. 7. Notice on restaurant hygiene inspections in town (August 15, 1939 / South China Medical Officers, no. 866)

Sources:

WAM Collection (Military\_058)

Collection of the Asian Women's Fund, Vol. 2, pp. 79-92.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 168-171.