

Research paper: “Peculiar Phenomena in the Battlefields and Measures to Be Taken (November 1937-November 1939)”

Author: 1st Lieut. medical officer of the Army, Torao Hayao

Date: June 1939

File: Peculiar phenomena in the battlefields and measures to be taken (Itemized studies on the psychology of the battlefield)

Locations: Japan

Keywords: Rape issue / installation / hygiene

Annotation Source: Northeast Asian History Foundation

Annotation Link: http://contents.nahf.or.kr/item/item.do?levelId=iswc.d_001_0010_0020

Annotation:

This research paper was authored by Dorao Hayao, a medical officer of the Army, in June 1939. Hayao, originally a professor at the Kanazawa Medical School, was conscripted as a 1st lieutenant of the reserve forces in the army in July 1937, immediately after the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War.

This paper was written and submitted in June 1939, to analyze the causes of and solutions for the neurosis and mental illnesses the soldiers suffer in the battlefield. It has twenty-two topics and the topic related to the “comfort women” is 17, “sexual desire and rape.” It says that Japanese soldiers had been indiscriminately raping Chinese women. It adds that even though the military authorities set up “comfort stations” to prevent the rapes, the number of rape cases remained the same, and the number of venereal diseases among the soldiers even increased. Hayao listed ten rape cases of Chinese women by the Japanese soldiers. He also pointed out that “the commanding officer condoned some of these cases as it was necessary to boost the soldiers’ morale” and that “the military authorities did not find it strange and thus no one so far was singled out for discipline.”

The paper also describes that:

- The Army installed “comfort stations” and staffed them with Japanese and Korean “comfort women” to prevent venereal diseases. However, venereal disease cases increased among soldiers and even officers. Officers took the lead in visiting “comfort stations” and encouraged soldiers to visit the facilities, too. Soldiers who refused to use a “comfort station” would be cursed at and told that they are crazy by officers.
- Whereas the Army would harass any women without shame, the Navy would not behave this way. It is probably because the Navy is better disciplined in general.

Details:

1. Blackouts
2. Biological warfare
3. Insertion and injection of toxic substances
4. Poison gas
5. Bombing
6. Plain-clothes corps and regular troops
7. Attacks, requisition, and lootings
8. Counter-intelligence and spies

9. Threatening one's superior and insubordination
10. Feigned illness
11. Homesickness
12. Diseases and wounds from the battles
13. Fear of war and runaway soldiers from the base
14. Active roles of the military police
15. Evacuation and repatriation
16. Drinking and inflicting injuries
17. Sexual desire and rape
18. War and fabrication
19. War and hallucination
20. War and expectations and wishes
21. War and superstitions
22. War and desire for death

Sources:

WAM Collection (Military_006)

Collection of the Asian Women's Fund, Vol. 2, pp. 55-74.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 154-159.

Sourcebook by Yoshimi, pp. 224-233.

Notes:

The paper is entitled as "Peculiar Phenomena in the Battlefields and Measures to Be Taken (From November 1937 to November 1939)" in the WAM collection; Hayao served as a medical officer in China during the above-mentioned period. Hayao submitted nine papers during this time period.