

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
CAPTURED PERSONNEL & MATERIAL BRANCH

SECRET

Date of Interrogation: 12/19 October 1944.
PW's Serial No. and Rank: 9WJ--14069, Korean Civilian (Laborer).
Unit or Vessel: None.
Date and Place of Capture: 28 June, 1944, Saipan.

R
KING, Kon Son
by Capt. J. P. Davis
HND

PREAMBLE

930

PW (22 years old) is an intelligent Korean, very anti-Japanese and eager to tell all. After six years schooling he worked in various restaurants in Keijo and Chinnampo (Korea) and in Shihmentzu (石門子 - Sekimonshi), Manchuria, where he finally owned his own tea-house.

Although PW is considered reliable, he is inclined to exaggerate--a typical Korean failing--and has a very poor sense of direction in describing locations.

IDENTIFICATIONS

MANSHU 1013:

A tank unit of men from the Tokyo area, in Shihmentzu (January, 1944). Among the officers who patronized his restaurant PW remembers:

Capt. HARIYAMA.
1st Lt. ENDO.

The unit was equipped with 30 or 40 tanks (which looked like the photo of Model 94 medium tank in Fig. 247 on P. 248 of TM-E-30-480), with many trucks (believed to be Toyota), with tank-drawn guns which PW believes to have been 75 and 90 mm (the former with pneumatic tires, the latter with metal-rimmed wheels) and with some twin-barrelled guns (believed to be A/T).

PW believes that this unit went to Malaya in November, 1942, and returned to Shihmentzu in August 1943 (?).

MANSHU 369:

A unit at Shihmentzu equipped with pack guns which PW identifies quite positively as the M 41 shown on Pp 299-302 of TM-E-30-480. PW has seen the guns both disassembled and carried on horseback, and horse-drawn during maneuvers (I.N.--CINCPAC-CINCPMA #9731 identifies this Manshu 369 Unit as the 4 Ind. Mt. Arty. Unit at Shihmentzu).

MANSHU 108:

A cavalry unit of men from Kyushu, at Shihmentzu. Among the officers PW remembers a Capt. OKAYAMA, believed to be the Adjutant. (I.N.--OS identifies Manshu 108 as the 46 Inf. Regt. ?).

930
- 1 -
SECRET

SECRET

18/19 October 1944

MANSHU 123:

A small unit at Nanshan (南山 - Nanshan), which supervised the farmers who raised crops for the troops of the area.

Laoheishan (老黑山 - Kokokusan): Large concentration of troops (third largest in area) but no identifications known).

Chenztu (城子 - Joshi): Largest concentration of troops in the area, fourteen or fifteen units with an Army headquarters under command of a Lt. Gen. (?).

Taitosen (大肚山?): Large ^{KUANTUNG} Kuantung Army Warehouses and Gasoline Dump, 14 or 15 army units--second largest concentration of troops in the area.

Dodoko (?): About 7 Army units, of which PW remembers Manshu 48, because men came to his restaurant on pass.

Border Garrison, East of Shihmentzu: PW heard that this unit was scattered among the hills in camouflaged subterranean pillboxes commanding the border.

MANSHU 568:

An unidentified unit in the hills east of Shihmentzu, from which men came on pass to the town. (I.N.--OB identifies Manshu 48 as 39 Air Branch Depot, but PW believes there were no airfields in the area.

LOCALITIES

PW is unable to orient himself on a map, but claims that towns mentioned by him are in the approximate positions shown in insert on Sketch #648. It is noted, however, that a Hsinhsing (新興 - Shinko) appears on the map 3 stations north of Tumen (圖們) and Nanyo (南陽) on the railroad to Hrtanchiang. PW claims this cannot be the same Shinko as it is too far from the Russian border.

SHIHMENTZU (石門子 - SEKIMONSHI) (See Sketch #647):

This town had a Japanese and Korean population of only about 50, mostly restaurateurs and prostitutes, a large military population of several units, and a small Manchurian town. The fact that PW could name 8 teahouses and a large Army club (Gwjincai) is some indication that this was a place of military importance.

The area where the Manshu 1013 unit kept its trucks and tanks was formerly occupied by a Manchurian unit in the days before Japanese occupation of the country; hence had mostly adobe buildings with thatched roofs. Buildings in other areas were one-story wood and brick structures. Note the electrified wire fence behind the Intendence Department of Manshu 1013 (Perhaps unit 369 is untrustworthy).

Shihmentzu is the headquarters of the opium rationing system in the district. Opium was distributed to other towns--such as Taitosen--once a week, to be doled out to the Manchurian workers--"No work, no opium."

SECRET

SECRET

18/19 October 1944

12069

TAITOSHEN (大田山) (See Sketch #648):

Unfortunately PW can identify none of the units stationed here. The Kantung Army warehouses and the "Storage Area in Hill" had been in existence for some years but the underground gasoline dumps were constructed with Korean and Manchu labor last year (1943). Both the "Storage Area in Hill" and the "Gasoline Dumps" were surrounded by electrified copper wire fences. A single-track railroad spur ran into the warehouse and storage areas from Hsinhsing (新興) Station on the railroad to Mutanchiang.

Taitoshen was 40 minutes walk through the hills from Shihmentzu.

NEW RAILROAD:

A new single-track railroad (completed in 1942 after war was declared) now runs from Tungning (東寧) - Tonesi through Lacholishan (老黑山 - Roko-lusan) to Tumen (圖們). Two passenger trains a day (compared with 3 per day on the Tungning-Mutanchiang single-track railroad.) Much freight traffic on both lines.

ARMY AIRFIELD, MUTANCHIANG:

PW confirms the location of the airfield near Manku approximately as shown on Sketch No. 639, stating that he has seen it from the racetrack to the west. He claims that the very large aircraft factory to the north of the field turned out completed planes, that there was a large repair depot at the north end of the field, that planes generally took off from the northeast end and landed at the northwest end, taxiing thence to the approximate east center where they disappeared, presumably down ramps into underground hangars (?). To the west of the racetrack was an extensive barracks area.

PW identifies Manku (滿航) as the old Manchu section of Mutanchiang (also known as Kyushikai - 舊市街) and believes that Ekka is another pronunciation of Aiho (愛河).

BRIDGES OVER DAIDO RIVER BETWEEN TUMEN (圖們) AND NANYO (南陽):

Railroad bridge: Double-track steel bridge.
Auto and foot bridge: About 300 feet to east of railroad bridge, built of concrete.

NEW HYDROELECTRIC PLANT IN KANKYO HOKUDO, KOREA:

For the past four or five years several thousand Koreans have been conscripted yearly to work from March to November on a large new hydroelectric plant somewhere on the Nishi Tseui (西頭水) River northeast of Keisanchin (惠山鎮). Work was slow because snow and cold interrupted throughout the winter months. This plant was planned to supply power to northern Korea and East Manchuria.

HAKUJWA (白岩), KANKYOHOKUDO, KOREA:

Center for the production of opium to be peddled to Manchu workers.

KOSHU (光州), KOREA:

SECRET

SECRET

WJ-14069

18/19 October 1944

Army airfield since before the war. (civilian (laborer)).

BITCHO, KOREA:

PW has heard of a very large branch of the Ryusan Iron Works close by the Tannin Factory at Bitcho (See ACF Korea P. 18), where many American PW's are working.

SAISHU ISLAND, SOUTH OF KOREA:

PW has heard that there are army troops on this island.

JAPAN MINING CO. SMELTER, CHINNAMPO (Target 68 - Korea):

PW claims that this was the largest smelter in Korea, that there would be a scarcity of steel if it should shut down for 7 days (?). He readily recognized the photo of this target on P. 26 of the Korea ACF, but was unable to give a lucid description of the installations because he worked in the restaurant only.

SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE

KOREAN LABOR UNITS (AIKOKA SAGYO TAI):

PW claims that Koreans are very bitter about this enforced labor, for which all men between the ages of 15 and 40 are liable, regardless of family responsibilities, regardless even of some physical disabilities. There is likewise deep resentment against the new law providing for conscription of Korean youths between the ages of 19 and 21 from the spring of 1944.

(I.N.--This man, like several other Japanese-speaking Korean PW's in his group, was very helpful in interpreting for others who spoke only their native tongue.)

END

SECRET SECRET