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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WAR DIVISION
ECONOMIC WARFARE SECTION

REPORT OF
MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL OBJECTIVES IN
HEIJO (PINGYANG), KOREA

June 24, 1943

Submitted by: John A. Eble
Economic Warfare Section
Department of Justice
Denver, Colorado

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Washington, D. C.

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Re: Military and Industrial
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MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL OBJECTIVES IN
HEIJO (PINGYANG), KOREA

This report identifies and describes the principal military and industrial objectives in Heijo, the second largest city in Korea. Observations forming the basis for this report were made in the fall of 1939 and were confirmed by two of the informants. Locations have been marked on the aerial photographs when possible. Heijo is the manufacturing city of the peninsula. The port for the city is situated at Chinnampo which is about eighteen miles south and west. At Chinnampo are located steel fabrication plants and coal collieries for the Japanese Imperial Navy. Since Chinnampo is situated on the Yellow Sea, it has dock communication with Dairen, which is the heavy industrial section of Manchuria.

From Heijo are two alternate rail routes to Manchuria, one running north to Teishu and Antung and the second east to Genzan and Rashin.

Heijo, the oldest city, was for centuries the capital of the Korean Kingdom. For years it has been the center of the political movement for freedom from Japan. More leaders for independence are to be found in this province (Haian) than any other. Patriots have experienced torture and imprisonment because of their political activities, making this province ideal for sabotage. The people are resourceful, intelligent, and aggressive. The terrain is mountainous, and dotted with villages to the north. Heavily forested areas also lend themselves for the dropping of propaganda and all informants believe this propaganda would be effective in this area.

Information on military and industrial objectives marked on the attached map are as follows:

1. On this island in the Taidong River at this point are several low red brick buildings and a settling reservoir. The water is taken from the river and pumped to a distribution reservoir on the hillside marked No. 3. At the date of observation informants had no knowledge of any auxiliary pumping equipment and believe that if the pumping plant and pipe lines were destroyed incendiaries would be effective as many of the factory buildings and barracks are of wood.

(OVER)

2. At this point is a foot bridge of iron which carries the pipe line from the pumping station on the island to the northwest bank of the river. If the pumping plant on the island and the pipe line were destroyed the city would be temporarily dependent upon the water in the reservoir.

3. Here is a distribution reservoir for the city of Heijo. This is the only reservoir known of by informants. It is not believed to be of sufficient size to supply the city for any length of time. The reservoir stands on a hillside approximately fifty meters in elevation and was an open reservoir in 1939. It should easily be identified from the air and is almost due west of the pumping station on the island in the river. The purpose of the reservoir was to increase the pressure.

4. The large area shaded in red is a restricted military area which included the airfield, hangars and repair shops (No. 5) for Sixth Army Air Corps. This field was built in 1921 and informants claim it was the number one airfield of Korea. It covers approximately 30,000 Tsubos, has hard surfaced runways, and has been modernized each year. To the north of the field on the northern bank of the Taidong River are the Bodan Mountains which are approximately 800 to 1,000 feet in height. These mountains are said to be covered with antiaircraft batteries. The field and antiaircraft protection were improved after the Manchurian campaign.

5. On the field at this point are located the hangars and repair shops. Just east of the hangars are low hills. Informants claim there are underground hangars in these hills which were constructed about 1938-1939. This information was learned from friends and relatives in Heijo but none of the informants were allowed on the field.

6. Police Headquarters. This is the headquarters for the Military Police and many political prisoners were held here. One informant, Young Soon Choy was arrested in 1938 and held here.

7. Iron railway bridge across the Daitong River at Heijo. This iron bridge was built in 1921 and carries double tracks for the street car line which runs from Heijo approximately seven miles east by south to the small town of Jido. At Jido are located the coal mines which are operated for the Japanese Imperial Navy. Aside from carrying passengers to and from the mines, the railway is used for freight and coal and is the only rail connection with Jido. The bridge crossing the river at the point is approximately 500 meters in length.

8. An Ritsu. Electrical Development Company Power Plant. This is a thermal plant which manufactured electricity for the city of Heijo and its industrial plants. Here are many buildings and smoke stacks. Some of the buildings are of wood and are painted black. It should easily be identified from the air. The power plant is not of much importance as a high power transmission line was constructed from the Diamond Mountain District in north-east Korea and the plant is only said to be used in an emergency or shortage. One informant believes that a new high power transmission line has been built from Kanko Province giving Heijo three means of securing electric energy.

9. Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company Plant. These buildings are substantially constructed of concrete and steel. By the railway spur shown on the map is a large warehouse. This is a large plant with a smoke stack. Informant believes the refinery has auxiliary electric power plant. Formerly the plant handled sugar beets, cane sugar, and raw sugar from Formosa. It has doubtlessly been converted to the manufacture of alcohol.

10. The Kanebo Textile Company Plant. These buildings are low and are one story high. Informants believe they are constructed of wood. Formerly they handled raw silk and employed about 1,000 people in 1939. One informant claimed they are manufacturing parachutes for the Japanese Army.

11. Fuji Iron Foundry. This is a new building. It is quite large and employs several hundred people. None of the informants knew what they were building.

12. Nippon Kokusan Kogyo Kabushiki Kaishi (Corn Products Refining Company Plant) All of the informants claim this was the largest industrial plant in Hiejo in 1939. In peace time they manufactured starch, glucose, sizing, etc. It is now said to be manufacturing alcohol. The plant was built about 1932 or 1933. It is a five story structure of reinforced concrete and can be easily identified by the condensers and piping which is similar to that of an oil refining plant.

13. Tile Manufacturing Company and Brickyards. This is a small plant employing only a few people. It is of no military importance. They did manufacture drain pipes.

14. Railway Iron Bridge across the Daitong River. This bridge was built in 1921, and is 618 meters in length. It crosses a small island as shown on the map. It carries double tracks and is on the main line of the railroad from Keijo to Shingshu (Keigi Main Line). The water in the river is shallow but swift. The informants believe the bombing of this bridge would be of little value and that the bridge could be reconstructed within a week.

15. In the hills at this point on the south bank of the Taidong River was located a powder magazine. Informants understood it was an underground storage for powder and ammunition and was used in connection with the Chosen Ammunition Plant (No. 20). No additional information could be secured on this objective, except that it was an old magazine and might have been enlarged.

16. The Ridge Tile Factory. This is a small concern of no military importance. The buildings are red brick, one story, they have few employees and manufactured roof tile.

17. Kansei Company - Electric Thermal Plant. None of the informants could give any information regarding this plant and believed it was of little importance.

(OVER)

18. Yamaju Sugar Factory. Informants claim this is a small plant but that it was a newer factory than the Dai Nippon Sugar Refinery. (As indicated in No. 9) A description of the plant, number of employees or conversion to war effort was lacking.

19. Oriental Textile Company. This is a small plant. The description of the plant, number of employees or products manufactured could not be learned.

20. Chosen Ammunition Plant. This plant is quite old and is completely encircled by a red brick wall, and a spur track enters the property just west of the Heijo Railway Station. Informants claim that although they have not actually been in the ammunition plant they have learned from friends and relatives that they were making machine gun and rifle bullets for the Japanese Army. They are small caliber shells, that is smaller than those used by the United States Army. No figure could be given as to production, number of employees, but all informants claim it was an important plant and was enlarged and improved during the Manchurian campaign.

21. Here are located the Army Warehouses along the spur of the railway. These warehouses were necessary to the ammunition plant and the 77th Regiment (Indicated by No. 25).

22. Heijo Railway Station. This station was quite old and was to be rebuilt. Informants believe a new station has been constructed. In front of the station to the southwest are the freight yards. To the southwest of the freight yards are several warehouses. Also east of the main line railway approaching this station are several low wooden warehouses. To the rear or northeast of the railway station is the terminal for the street car line to Jido. A car barn and several spur tracks are just north of the railway station.

23. Army Officers' Residences. Encircled in red are the residences for the Army officers of the 77th Regiment. These buildings are of red brick.

24. Brigade Commander's Residence. This is also a red brick building.

25. Headquarters for the 77th Regiment. Here are many buildings, shaded ground, etc. These have also been marked and identified on the aerial photograph.

26. Penitentiary and Workhouse. The prison consists of several low buildings of one and two stories. The grounds are completely surrounded by a high red brick wall. Political prisoners were kept here in 1939. The aerial photograph also shows the penitentiary.

27. The Pyengan Gum (Rubber) Shoe Factory. On the northwest side of the track is located this factory which employes about 1500 people. The buildings are low, one and two stories. In 1939 informants claimed they were manufacturing shoes for the Army.

Tairuck Gum (Rubber) Factory. This is situated on the southeast side of the railway track and consists of several low buildings of one or two stories. The factory employed about 1,000 or 1,200 people in 1939 and manufactured various rubber goods products. Informants could not give any additional information.

28. American Missionary College. This is a building of three stories, red brick, with a large athletic field in the foreground. The informants believe it would assist in the identification of other objectives nearby; that is unless the athletic field has since been camouflaged.

29. Meteorological Station. This is situated on a hill to the west of the street car line and the Daitong River. Observations were made here for the Sixth Army Air Corps which is situated directly east. (As indicated by Nos. 4 and 5)

SOURCE

Young Soon Choy was born in Heijo (Pingyang), Korea. His father was a leader for independence from Japan and was arrested many times. Young Soon Choy last saw his father in 1938 and if he is living he is in the penitentiary at the Penitentiary for Political Prisoners at Heijo. Young Soon Choy also was arrested and was in prison shortly after the Japanese arrested his father. He was later released and Mr. E. M. Mowry, a Presbyterian Missionary in Heijo, guaranteed his passage and brought him to the United States by way of Shanghai. E. M. Mowry was President of the Christian College in Korea where Young Soon Choy was a student. At present Young Soon Choy is an instructor in Japanese in the Navy Language School at Boulder, Colorado. The personal records at the Navy Language School were checked and found to be very favorable. Mr. Choy was very cooperative and has given the names of various members of the Korean National Party for Independence. He has also supplied maps and identified all of the objectives indicated in this report.

Bong Y. Choy was born in Heijo (Pingyang), Korea, and was a student at Christian College. He was a roommate of Young Soon Choy at college. At present he is an instructor of Japanese at the University of California at Berkeley, California. His present address is 1130 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Ilhan Neu, son of Keewen Neu, a Korean merchant, believes he was born in the Hawaiian Islands, and was formerly a resident of Heijo. He was the owner of the Neu Ilhan Company in Heijo. He was educated in the public schools at Kearney, Nebraska, and the high schools of Detroit, Michigan. He attended Michigan State College from 1915-1916, the University of Michigan in 1916-1919; received his MBA at the University of California in Los Angeles in 1939-1940 and is a prominent business man, a member of the Shrine. While in Korea he represented Sharp and Dohme, pharmaceutical company. He left Korea in 1938 because of his health. He married Mary Woo (Chinese) who is the daughter of Knong Woo, a former merchant of Canton China. Mr. Neu has been very active in the United Korean Association for Korean Independence and has donated time and money to that cause. Further information regarding Mr. Neu can be secured from Lieut. Colonel Carroll T. Harris, Military Intelligence Service, Room 546, 74 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California, and Lieut. Weims of the Office of Strategic Service, Call Building, San Francisco, California.