

statement of Nagashi, Hiroo

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STATEMENT OF

HAYASHI, Hideo

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

- May 1932: Employed at Tokyo Central Telegraph Office.
- February 1939: Secretary in China Affairs Board.
- November 1942-
April 1943: Official in Economic Section, General Affairs Bureau, GEA Ministry.
- April 1943-
August 1943: Drafted and served in Army, Infantry Branch, 2nd Class Private, stationed at Gifu.
- September 1943-
July 1944: Official in Economic Section, General Affairs Bureau, GEA Ministry.
- August 1944-
September 1945: Drafted and served in army as Superior Private.
- September 1945: Official in Second Section of #2 Department of Control Bureau, Foreign Ministry.

I, Hideo Hayashi, being duly sworn to speak the truth testified at the War Ministry building on 3 November 1948 as follows:

I was graduated from Chuo University in March 1937 and majored in law. I am not a lawyer as I studied for only three years. I have never been interrogated by Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP before.

During 1939 I was a secretary in the China Affairs Board, but I had no connection with or knowledge of any Chinese labor being conscripted for Manchuria or other Japanese-held territories. I had no knowledge of Chinese labor being recruited for Japanese-held territories or Japan at any time before the war with America broke out.

In November 1942 I became an official in the Economic Section, General Affairs Bureau, of the GEA Ministry under Kiichi Aichi. The personnel in our section amounted to approximately thirty and our duties were to collect man power and materials for distribution in Japanese-held territories. From November 1942 until April 1943 I was put in charge of handling materials for distribution while other members of my section were concerned in collecting and distributing Japanese laborers for its occupied territories. From April 1943 until August 1943 I was in the Japanese Army as a Second Class Private, Infantry, stationed at Gifu.

As a governmental official my status did not

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change while I was in the military and therefore when I was discharged from the army in August 1943, I resumed my position at the GEA Ministry. When I returned I discovered that, as a result of a Ministers' Conference and the Planning Board, it was determined to draft Chinese labor into Japan on an experimental basis. The initial batch of Chinese laborers arrived in Japan in April, and by September of 1943 there were between sixteen hundred and two thousand Chinese laborers distributed throughout Japan. My own duties consisted of acting as liaison officer between the Economic Section and the various ministries concerned such as Home, Welfare, etc. Due to the fact that it was a new thing in Japan a great many reports were received from the various labor camps in which these Chinese were distributed. In the event that it became necessary to give an answer to these reports from various camps I, as liaison officer, would take charge of this.

Ichiro Kojima and I had charge of reading reports received from labor camps throughout Japan. We would show them to the Section Chief, Kiichi Aichi, who would make recommendations to the reports and then we would distribute them to the ministries concerned. All of these reports were not sent to the Economic Section. Some were sent to the GEA Ministry which forwarded them to us and we would follow the above procedure. I remained in the Economic Section until July 1944 when I was again drafted into the army and served there until the end of the war as a Superior Private. My tenure of office in the Economic Section of the GEA Ministry was only from November 1942 to April 1943, and from September 1943 to July 1944. I do not know what happened to the reports that were received from the labor camps, or to any reports pertaining to Chinese labor.

Between April 1943 and August 1943 three or four drafts totaling approximately sixteen to two thousand Chinese laborers arrived in Japan, on an experimental basis. There had been no set period established by the planning board for this experiment but actually the testing period ended about September 1943. In February of 1944 the vice ministers held a conference in which it was decided that the experiment of drafting Chinese skilled laborers into Japan was a success. Therefore, in order to alleviate the man power shortage in Japan it was then decided to conscript a greater number of Chinese laborers into Japan. As a result of this conference a number of Chinese laborers totaling approximately two thousand to three thousand laborers arrived in Japan.

The Economic Section originated a request and forwarded it to the minister via the bureau chief and the secretary to the minister and at times the vice minister to inspect the labor camps, in which these Chinese worked. This request was granted by Minister Kazuo Aoki and I was selected by the Economic Section to inspect these camps on two different occasions.

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On one trip I visited labor camps in Hokkaido and on another occasion at Nagano-ken and Kanagawa-ken.

I had previously inspected Chinese laborers arriving in Japan and in my eyes there did not seem to be any difference between the laborers that were received after February 1944 from those who had been received previous to that date. When I visited these labor camps I always talked with the labor superintendent of each camp, visited the working area and observed the laborers and their housing facilities. These inspection tours lasted approximately six or seven hours in each camp. While at these camps I was not able to see all the men at their jobs but in some camps I did observe a number of youths ranging in age from fifteen to sixteen. I did not see any elderly men. I did see some men resting who, according to the labor superintendent, were ill but who were receiving medical treatment. All of these camps did not have dispensaries but those that did handled the patients who needed medical treatment. Those camps that did not have dispensaries contracted with a local physician who would treat the sick. I never saw any mistreatment of laborers nor did I receive a report of such conditions.

The reports that were received and read by me in the Economic Section from these camps were volunteer monthly reports to the ministries concerned dealing with the volume of work done, health conditions in each camp, number of injured and causes, those that were sick and the number who had died. We also received reports concerning the general working conditions and the consumption of food. I cannot recall if there was an unusual death rate in any of these camps or an abnormal amount of sick laborers but I do recall that there was a general shortage of food in most of these camps.

I do not believe that Mr. Aichi had anything to do with the original decision in bringing Chinese laborers into Japan in November 1942. However I do believe that he had knowledge of a second draft of Chinese laborers previous to the February 1944 ministers' meeting in which it was decided that the experiment had been a success and additional laborers would be drafted. Previous to the second conference in 1944, it was decided that the experiment had been a success and had originated with the planning board. However the planning board dissolved before the February 1944 conference was held and the responsibility passed to either the Munitions Bureau or the Welfare Ministry. From one of these bureaus Mr. Aichi learned that a Vice Ministers' Conference would be held to draft more laborers into Japan but he himself was not present at the conference nor did he have any voice in the plans or policy of recruiting Chinese laborers into Japan. When I left for the army in September 1944 I was succeeded by Toyoma Matsuki who is now in the Inspection Section of the Control Bureau in the Finance Ministry. I believe he acted in that capacity until the end of the war.

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ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES }
TOKYO JAPAN }

I, Hideo HAYASHI, being duly sworn on oath, state that I had read to me and understood the translation of the foregoing transcription of my testimony, consisting of 3 Pages, and that it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Hideo HAYASHI

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of NOVEMBER 1948.

Philip F. Cheles
PHILIP F. CHELES
INVESTIGATOR
LEGAL SECTION, GHO

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES }
TOKYO JAPAN }

I, JOHN EHARA, being duly sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that, after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 3 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

John Ehara
JOHN EHARA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of NOVEMBER 1948.

Philip F. Cheles
PHILIP F. CHELES

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, PHILIP F. CHELES, certify that on the 8th day of NOVEMBER, 1948, personally appeared before me HIDEO HAYASHI and, according to JOHN EHARA, gave the foregoing testimony; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said HIDEO HAYASHI had read to him by the said interpreter the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

TOKYO JAPAN
(Place)

Philip F. Cheles
PHILIP F. CHELES

8 NOVEMBER 1948
(Date)