

A (cont)
Administration Section of the Plants and Factories Branch where I handled office work and personnel.

Q Do you mean labor personnel?
A Yes. And the following month, July, I became Chief of the Labor Section of the firm and served up to July 1941 in that position.

Q What were your duties as director of the Labor Section?
A As director of the Labor Section my duties were first to supply the necessary labor, its control and regulation, which had to do with their living quarters, sanitation, hospitals and deaths etc.

Q How did you go about procuring labor?
A The company had a branch office at Tientsin and at first we got most of our laborers from that area. We sent the old time employees of the company back to their respective districts where they came from and they were usually very successful in bringing back their friends. We also got some laborers from Manchuria. To help Manchurian people we made arrangements with the various districts to supply them with different tools that we used to make, or help them to establish schools, and in living well....things that would be beneficial to the community. In turn these communities would supply their excess manpower. Later on when we needed more laborers we got them from the North China area. We also sent back old time employees of the company that had originally come from North China back to their respective areas and they would bring back as many of their friends as they could.

Q Where was the head office of this company located?
A The head office was at Anshan, near Mukden, in Manchuria.

Q Didn't you utilize the Manchurian Labor Association?
A The Manchurian Labor Association had nothing to do with the procurement of labor. It was just a control organ for labor. We did not get any of our employees through the Manchurian Labor Association.

Q Didn't you really recruit labor by going to these provinces or districts or municipalities and demand that they supply you with so many laborers?
A While I was with the company I do not remember any instances when we had to go to municipalities or townships to demand certain quotas of labor because during my time there it was relatively easy to procure labor. Although toward the latter years we were gradually getting short of personnel. But I do not remember of instances when we had to make demands for labor.

Q What do you mean, you don't remember? Do you mean that you positively did not carry on this practice?
A Yes, while I was with the firm we positively did not resort to that means to get our labor.

Q Do you know whether or not this practice was carried on later, after you left?
A No, I do not know nor did I hear of any instance where this system was used in Manchuria to acquire labor. I have heard that there was an organ known as the KYOWAKAI which went ahead to get volunteer laborers for road building in Manchuria. I understand when they recruited this free labor group to make roads in Manchuria, a quota from various provinces and districts was set up.

- Q Did you say "free labor"?
- A It was just like volunteer or free service for the country. It was something like the German Youth Service Groups they had in Germany where all young men had to serve a certain length of time. They had to serve the country free.
- Q It was the Japanese Government that decided this, was it not?
- A It was an organ established by the Manchurian Government. Of course its connections with the Japanese Government would mean that the Japanese Government had something to do with it.
- Q Did the Japanese Government actually control the Manchurian Government?
- A I don't know if you could call it that, but since there were many Japanese officials within the Manchurian Government, some people say that Manchuria was actually the Japanese government - but it is the way you look at it.
- Q You say you remained at this job until 1941?
- A Yes.
- Q What happened then?
- A In July 1941 I was made director of the Manchurian Labor Association and had my office at Mukden. Of course I represented the South Manchurian Heavy Industries.
- Q Who appointed you as director of the Manchurian Labor Association?
- A I don't know how it actually came about that I was appointed by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, but because of the fact that I was with the Labor Section of the SHOWA Steel works, which was partly owned by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, they must have decided that I would be the logical man. The Manchurian Labor Association was an organ that worked with the Manchurian Government, the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries.
- Q Did you resign your post with the SHOWA Steel Co.?
- A The agreement was that I could come back to the SHOWA Steel Co. after the two year term of director had expired. They arranged this by transferring me to the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, and then by giving me a legal absence of two years.
- Q Just what was the South Manchurian Heavy Industries?
- A At the beginning most of the industries in Manchuria were either controlled or affiliated with the South Manchurian Railway. The South Manchurian Heavy Industries was a company established by the joint sponsorship of the Manchurian and Japanese Governments to take over the heavy industries that were on the South Manchurian Railway. The SHOWA Steel Works and the Coal and Metal Mines were under its control.
- Q Were the directors in these two concerns, that is the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, mostly Japanese?
- A Yes, the greater part were Japanese. Some were Manchurians.
- Q Was not the South Manchurian Heavy Industries the Japanese Governmental Agency or Association? For the purpose of controlling the development of the industry in Manchuria?

A I do not know what the actual relationship of the Japanese Government was in this company but it is a fact that the Japanese Government had a lot of influence. Looking back I recall that the South Manchurian Railway was having a difficult time because of shortage of funds. A new company was to be formed under the name of the South Manchurian Heavy Industries and the capital of this new firm was to be three billion yen, of which two billion would come from the United States and the other billion from Japan. AYUKAWA who was a big industrialist in Japan was the head of this firm and because of the studies he made in America and because he had a lot of American friends, he was chosen to head this new enterprise. But when the funds from America failed to materialize it was started by Japanese capital only, with AYUKAWA as its head.

Q Was not the capital for this organization furnished by the Japanese Government?

A At this time I do not recall who financed this enterprise but I think it was an enterprise that was financed fifty-fifty by the Japanese Government and the Manchurian Government, and where AYUKAWA comes in with his personal interest, I do not know.

Q Was the Manchurian Labor Association actually a Government organization, or was it not?

A I don't think that the Manchurian Labor Association could be called an organ of the Manchurian Government because it was an organization financed by the South Manchurian Railway and South Manchurian Heavy Industries and the Manchurian Government jointly.

Q Well now, again were not the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries associations controlled by the government?

A Although this Labor Association operated under the rules and regulations of the Manchurian government, I still don't think it could be called an organ of the government because it was established by contributions of the three or four mentioned parties and it was a legal corporation. I would like to add that the appointment of directors for this association was with the approval of the Manchurian Government.

Q Who was the head of the Manchurian Labor Association?

A It was a man by the name of KONDO - but I cannot recall his first name.

Q How were you connected with this association?

A In October 1941 this organization was reorganized and changed its set-up. It became known as the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI and they had members who paid fees.

Q What did you do then? Did you have anything to do with this ROMU KOKOKU KAI?

A I became the administrative director of this association.

Q As administrative director, what were your duties?

A I was administrative director for the Mukden Area District of the Association. My duties were the control and guidance of labor in this district.

Q What was the purpose of this corporation?
A The function of this association was similar to the former set-up and its primary purpose was the control and regulation of labor in Manchuria, salaries, movement, and looking after their welfare.

Q Was one of the functions of the organization to procure labor?
A The association never did procure labor themselves because we acted in the capacity of aiding the various industries or firms that needed labor by giving them information as to the area in which they had available labor and what kind of a group would be most suitable for their particular jobs.

Q Where did the association have branch offices?
A The head office of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI was at Changchung. Each province had their own association which was located in the main cities and these provincial associations had various branches set up in various cities and towns. I was not connected with the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI but was administrative director of the Mukden district only.

Q Was that a branch office of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI?
A Yes, a provincial office.

Q In the first part of this document you have, headed "True Estimates of the work done by North China Labor Association", you say that the Manchuria Labor Association was created around 1938?
A Yes.

Q Later on in the same paragraph you say the association set up its branch offices in Tientsin and CHINAN and other places in North China as agencies for issuing labor certificates and for recording and transporting laborers.
A Yes, that is right.

Q You then told me a while ago that the association had nothing to do with the recruiting of labor but merely controlled labor.
A It was to facilitate and help the recruiting. It does not say the recruiting.

Q How would you translate that - the sentence beginning "The association set up its branch office etc.etc."
A For the purpose of issuing health certificates and to give aid and help and facilitate the ROMU KOKOKU KAI in the mobilization and shipment.

Q How were the laborers mobilized?
A The way that they were recruited as I said earlier in the morning was that the various industries or companies concerned sent some of their old-timers to recruit some of their friends in their own home area and there were other Chinese professional procurers that would get the labor for these people and the duty of this Manchurian Labor Association as it states here was aiding these people and telling them what districts to go for certain kinds of labor because the association had data and had made a study of the various conditions of the country and knew where to look for the laborers. Other work that they did was to regulate and control the advanced payments they made when they procured these laborers and also when their contracts were over and they returned to their homes, these branch offices would aid them in the shipment to their destination.

Q You said these professional procurers would bring in laborers.
Were they paid so much for each laborer brought in?

A It depended on the company concerned but generally it was
a payment of so much per person.

Q Did the association pay the procurers?

A No, the association had nothing to do with these payments.
It was the individual companies concerned.

Q How long were you connected with that organization in that
capacity?

A What I have written in this statement is something that was
before my time and when I joined the Manchuria Labor Association
we had no branch offices.

Q I am not speaking of that. I am speaking of the ROMU KOKOKU KAI.

A That was organized in 1941.

Q How long were you connected with the ROMU KOKOKU KAI?

A I was with this organization up to June 1943.

Q What did you do then?

A I went to the North China Labor Association in July, 1943.