

**[ Title of Research Project ]****Research on Japanese (military) prisoners in Mongolia(1945-1947).****[ Research Summary ]**

The democratic changes created the possibilities to revisit the existing views and interpretations of the war time issue and many aspects of War History needs a more detailed analysis and objective interpretation from the Mongolian historians. Up to 1990 the current topic had been interpreted in context of war time and interpretation was based upon socialist ideology, so studying this issue based on the newly revealed historical sources including methods of oral history, give us a possibility to making a true interpretation of the matter is becoming of crucial importance in the light of the understanding war time period, especially the Mongolian Governments policy concerning Japanese war prisoners. Today we have only a several articles which touched this issue and the suggested total numbers of the POWs are different from all sources. For example: If, a Mongolian historians calculated that 12318 Japanese POWs were captured during the war, the American historians like Robert Rupen wrote about 15000 POWs. This means all aspects about the Japanese war prisoners must be clarify with the using all kind of sources which kept in our archives and memories of Mongolian soldiers which still alive today and some private archives sources and interviews must be used according above research aims. For the comparative research we need archives papers, all kind of Governments documents including agreements, resolutions, estimates, not only from Mongolia, so intergovernmental documents signed from the both side and archive's papers from Russian and Japanese side, too. The intended research will cover after war period between 1945-1947.

In Mongolian State Central Archives we have a special fund about Japanese war prisoners which included more than 100 separate files. All directives concerning this activity were done according Russian State Policy. This means intergovernmental papers between Mongolia and Soviet Union must be revisiting and analyzing according Geneva's convention of 1929. /However Russia refused it/

"There are a lot of events that left the traces in the history of the relationship between Mongolia and Japan. One of them is the Japanese soldiers captured in 1945-1947 who ended up living and working in Mongolia. In the autumn of 1945 Japanese captives numbering 12,318 came to Mongolia through Mukden, Chanchun, Tsitsikar, Khailar, Kharbin, Jekhe in China and Otpor, Borz, Chita, Ulaan-Ude, and Naushki in Russia. The authority in charge of captured soldiers' affairs was established by the council of ministers of People's Republic of Mongolia. The resort in Dambadarjaa was closed down and it was decided to use all the buildings there as a military hospital for the captured soldiers. Some of prisoners were allocated to work in factories and industries that were lacking laborers. The captives were given medical treatments mainly in the hospitals in Dambadarjaa and Khujirbulan. The Mongolians treated them with kindness, sending them to the urban areas in central or northeast part of Mongolia to work. These regions are naturally beautiful parts of Mongolia. Mongolians did not send them to the Gobi or the areas with severe and harsh weather. The ones who worked very well and completed the given tasks were given supplements and bonuses and provided with separate accommodations. Mongolians and Japanese soldiers were somewhat similar to each other in terms of

appearance, physique, respect for elders, religious rituals, and hospitality. These led them to form close friendships with each other. Doctor Kasuga Ukio shared his experience. He was working at meat-processing factory in Ulaanbaatar. He was starving and exhausted.

Japanese soldiers numbering 10,705 left Mongolia in good health on October 14-28 in 1947, although 1,613 had died in Mongolia because of different health problems. There is a cemetery of Japanese captives in Dambadarjaa near Ulaanbaatar and in Khujirbulan; at Sukhbaatar in Selenge; at Baruunkharaa, Zuunkharaa, Shokhoi and Tsagaan Bulag in Tuv aimag, and at at Sukhbaatar in Selenge; at Baruunkharaa, Zuunkharaa, Shokhoi and Tsagaan Bulag in Töv aimag, and at Nalaikh, Arkhust, Jargalant, Batsumber, Bormuur, and Ukher Chuluu."

### **Publication of the Results of Research Project:**

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

From Thursday, 9 September to Saturday, 11 September 2010 At Mongolia- Japan Center for Human Resources Development Mongolia, Mongolia-Japan in the Past and the Present-Focusing on the 20 th Century. The third International Symposium in Ulaanbaatar, Presenter Ya.Shiilegmaa. Research on Japanese (military) prisoners in Mongolia (1945-1947)

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Journal Mongolia-Japan in the Past and the Present-Focusing on the 20 th Century, 2011 January, Ya.Shiilegmaa. Research on Japanese (military) prisoners in Mongolia (1945-1947), pp.

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